ぼくは麻理のなか ③

押見修造

双葉社
ACTION COMICS

ぼくは麻理のなか 3

抑見修造

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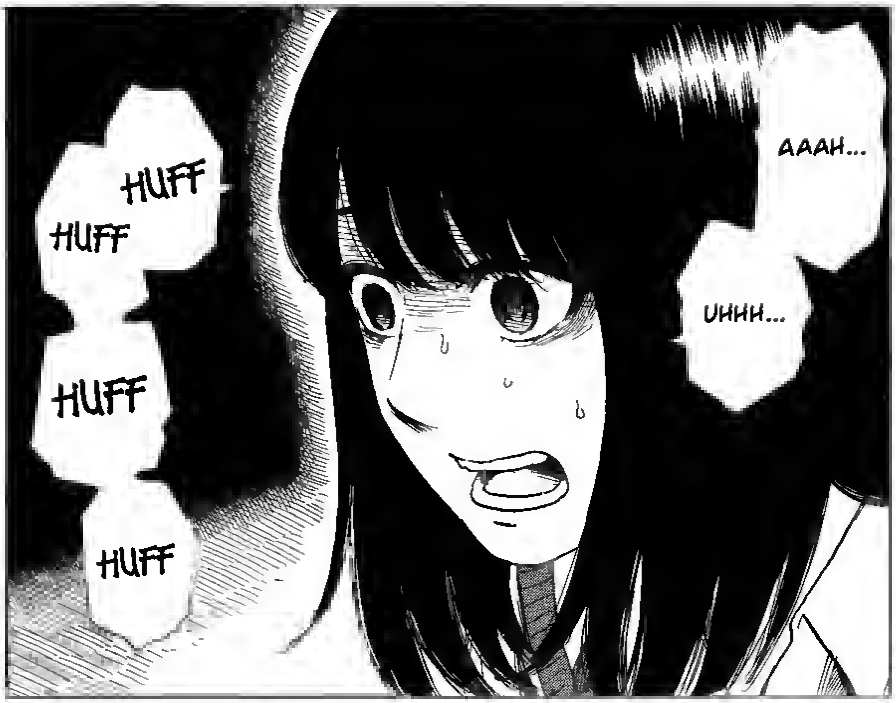
CHAPTER 18: THE TIME FOR CONFRONTATION


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AAAH...
UHHH...

AAAAH...
AAH...

WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT IS THIS?
GROAN... IT HURTS...
MY STOMACH HURTS.
I'M...
BLOOD.
I'M BLEED-ING.
THIS IS WHAT A PERIOD IS?!
IS THIS A PERIOD?!
MY PERIOD?!
I'M NOT SICK OR INJURED OR ANYTHING?!
REALLY?!

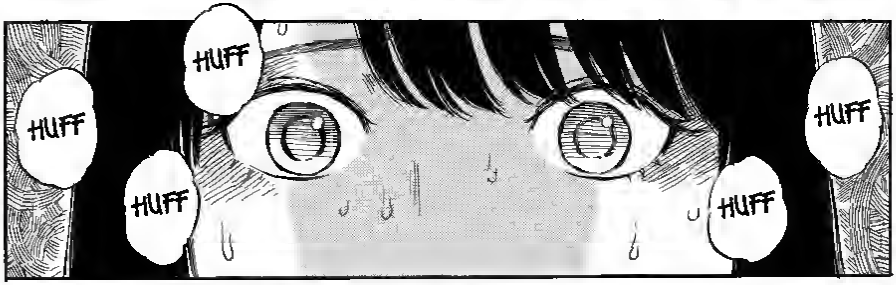
CLACK
コツ
CLACK
コツ
コツ
CLACK
コツ
CLACK
コツ
CLACK
コツ
CLACK
コツ
CLACK
コツ
SWISH

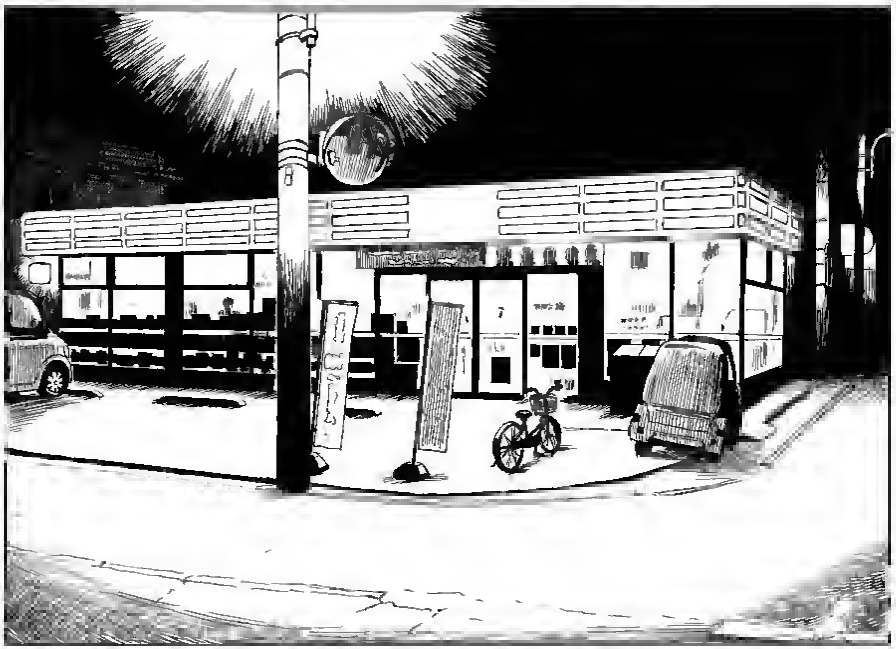
EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU OKAY?
DO YOU FEEL SICK?
UH... UM... I...
I'M FINE! REALLY!
...
UH... OKAY.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

よろ…
STAGGER
GROAN…
HUFF…
UNGH…
UNH…
HFF…
HUFF
HUFF…
GROAN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

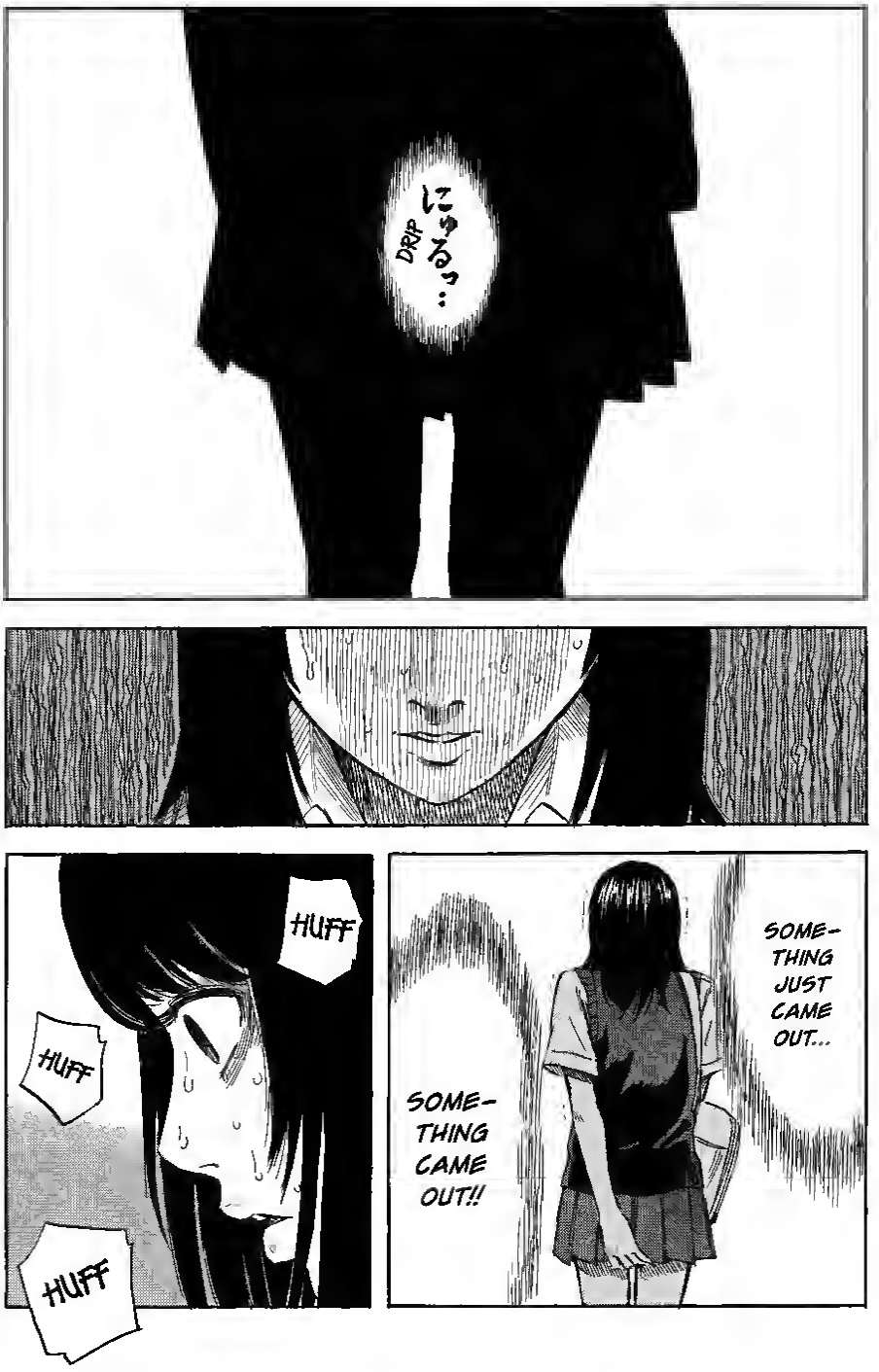
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
USE A HANDKERCHIEF...
AH! HANDKERCHIEF!
I'M SORRY...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

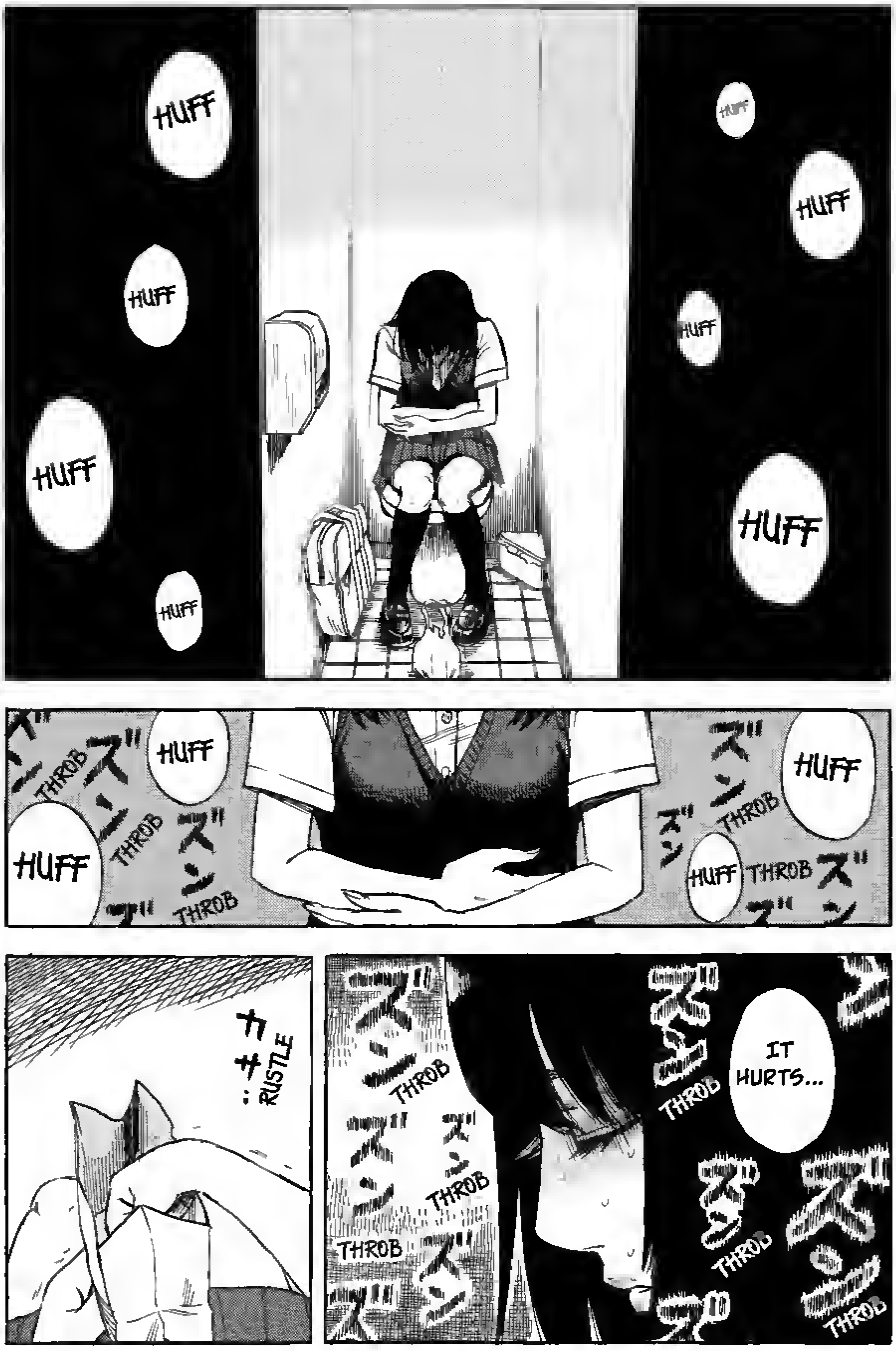


STAGGER
よろ…
ガ
WHIRRR
WHICH...
WHICH ONE AM I SUPPOSED TO BUY?
WHICH ONE?
WHICH ONE?


DRIP
にゅるっ…
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SOME-
THING
CAME
OUT!!
SOME-
THING
JUST
CAME
OUT...

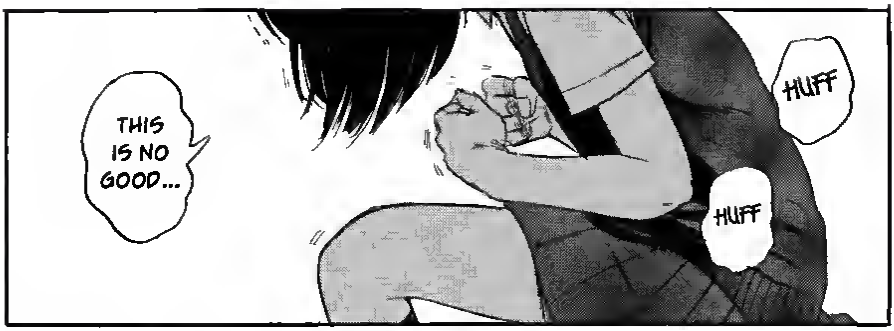
GRAB
ガ
ひょこ
WOBBLE
ひょこ
WOBBLE
ポ
PAT
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WEL...
COME...

UM...
THAT'S 178 YEN.
ガサ
RUSTLE
PLEASE...
...LET ME USE YOUR BATHROOM.


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
カサ: RUSTLE
IT HURTS...

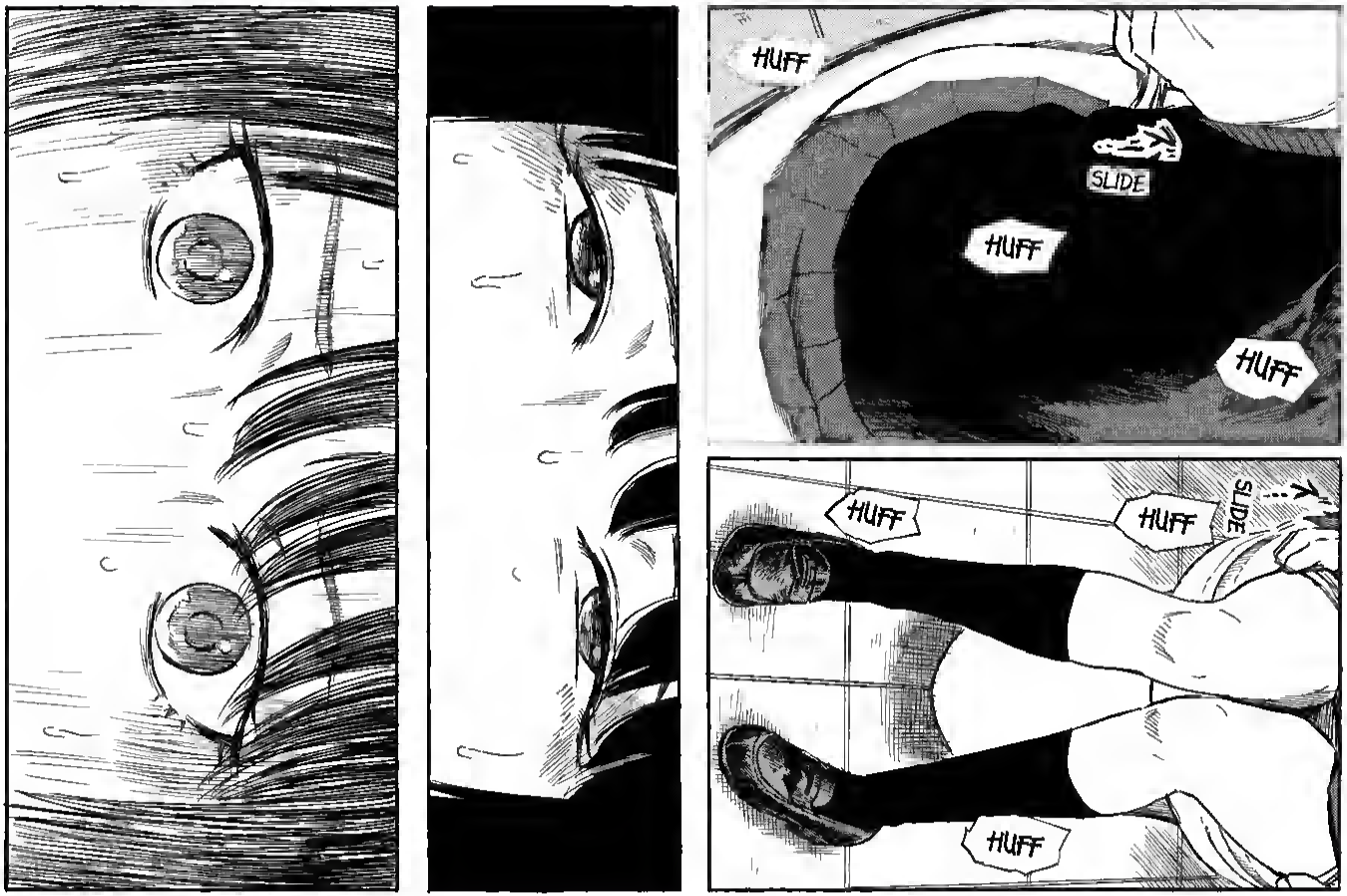
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
RUSTLE
HUFF
OOH...
URRGHH...
URRGHHH...

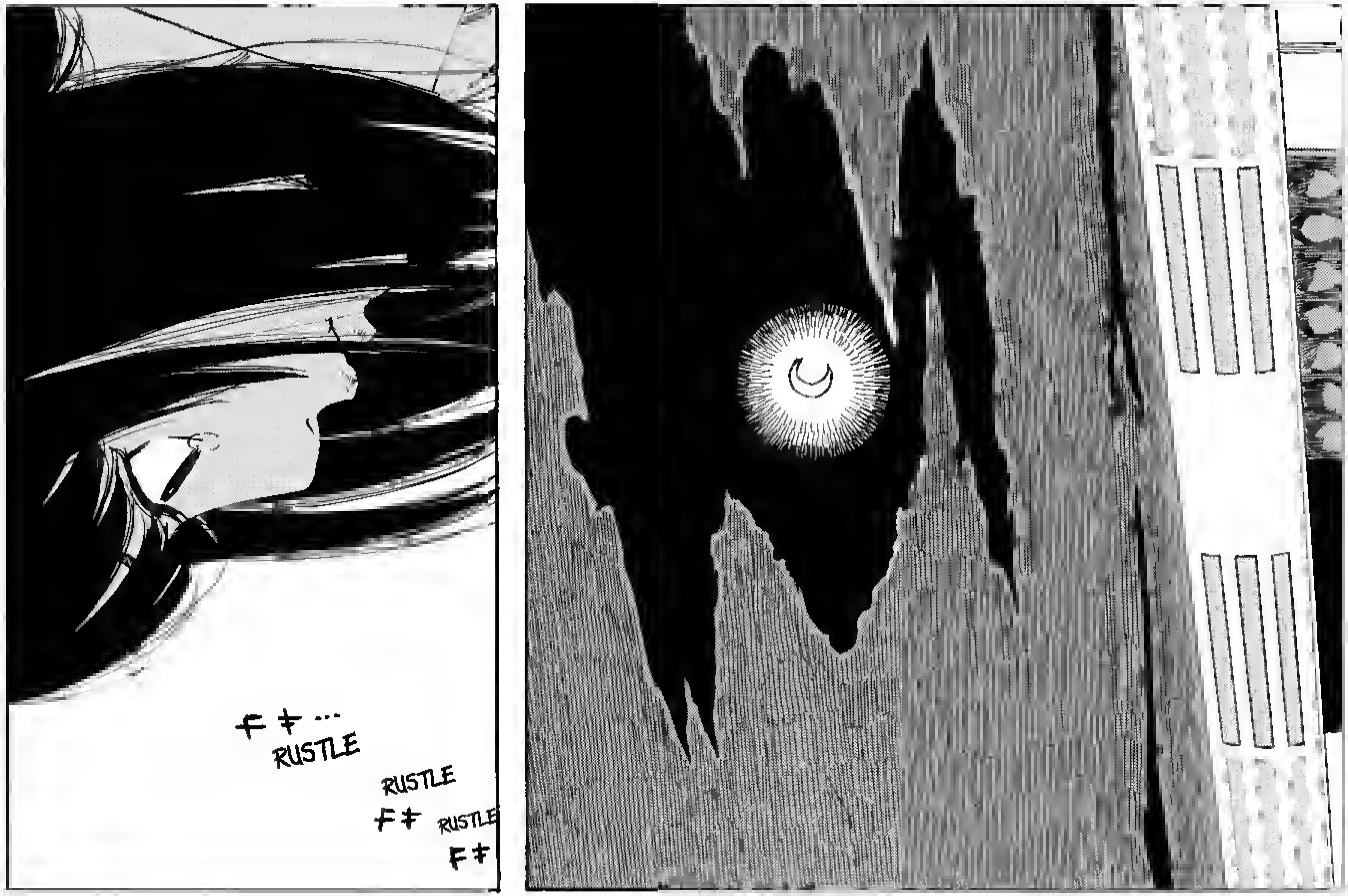
I'M SORRY!
SORRY...
I'M SORRY!
SNIFF SOB
I'M SORR...
I'M SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY...
I'M SO SORRY...


THIS IS NO GOOD...
HUFF
HUFF

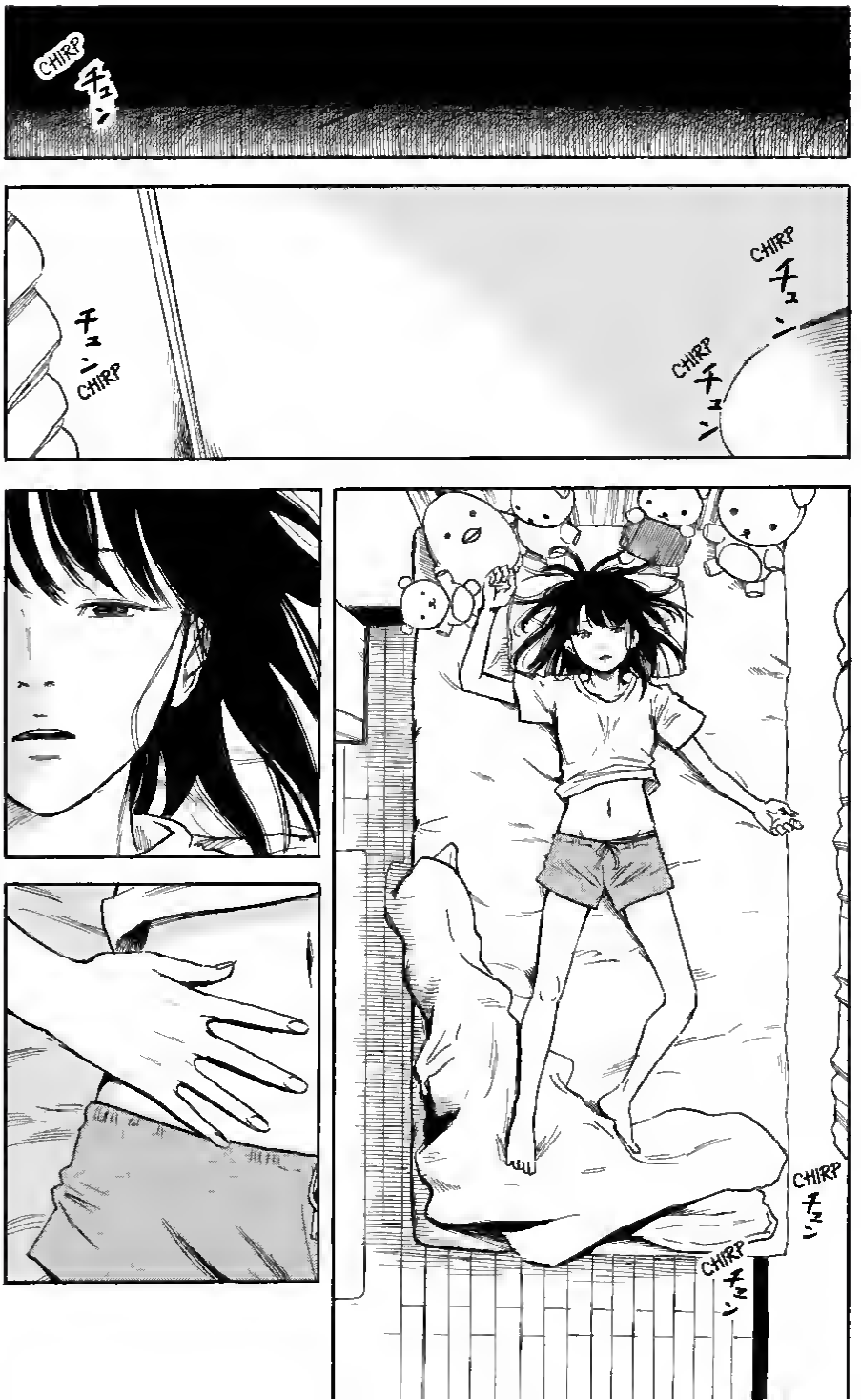
DON'T CRY...
DON'T CRY...

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP MARI-SAN!
DON'T CRY!


HUFF
SLIDE
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SLIDE
HUFF

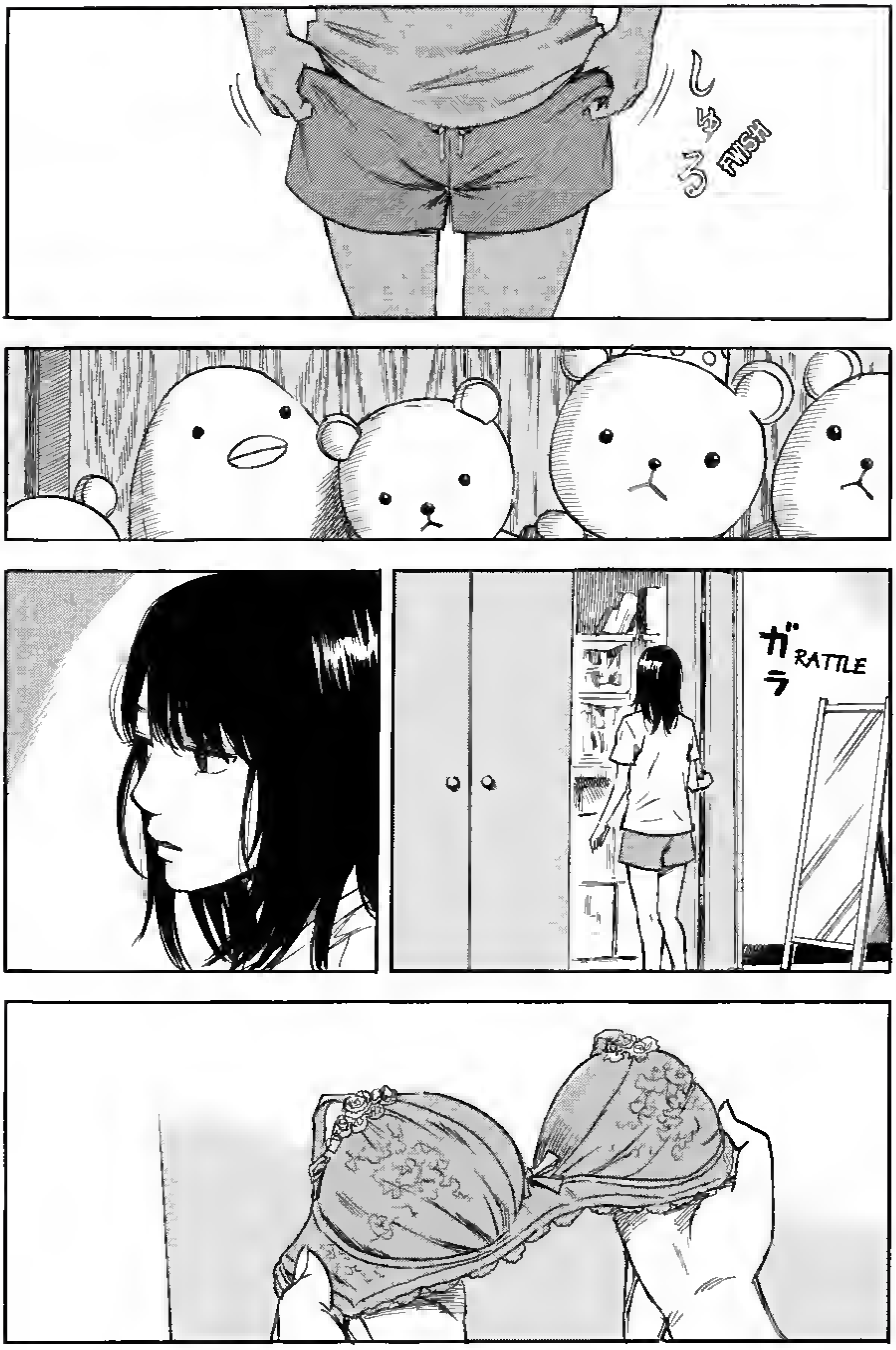

ｻｻ…
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
ｻｻ RUSTLE
ｻｻ

CHAPTER 19: MARI'S EVERYDAY LIFE


CHIRP
チュン
チュン
CHIRP
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
チュン

STAGGER
SLIDE

クシャ CRUMPLE
ペリ PEEL
ペリ PEEL
カサカサ RUSTLE
ビリ TEAR
カサ RUSTLE


しゅる
RUSH
ガラ
RATTLE

しゅる
FWISH
FWAP

キーンコーン
DING DONG
カーンコーン
DING DONG

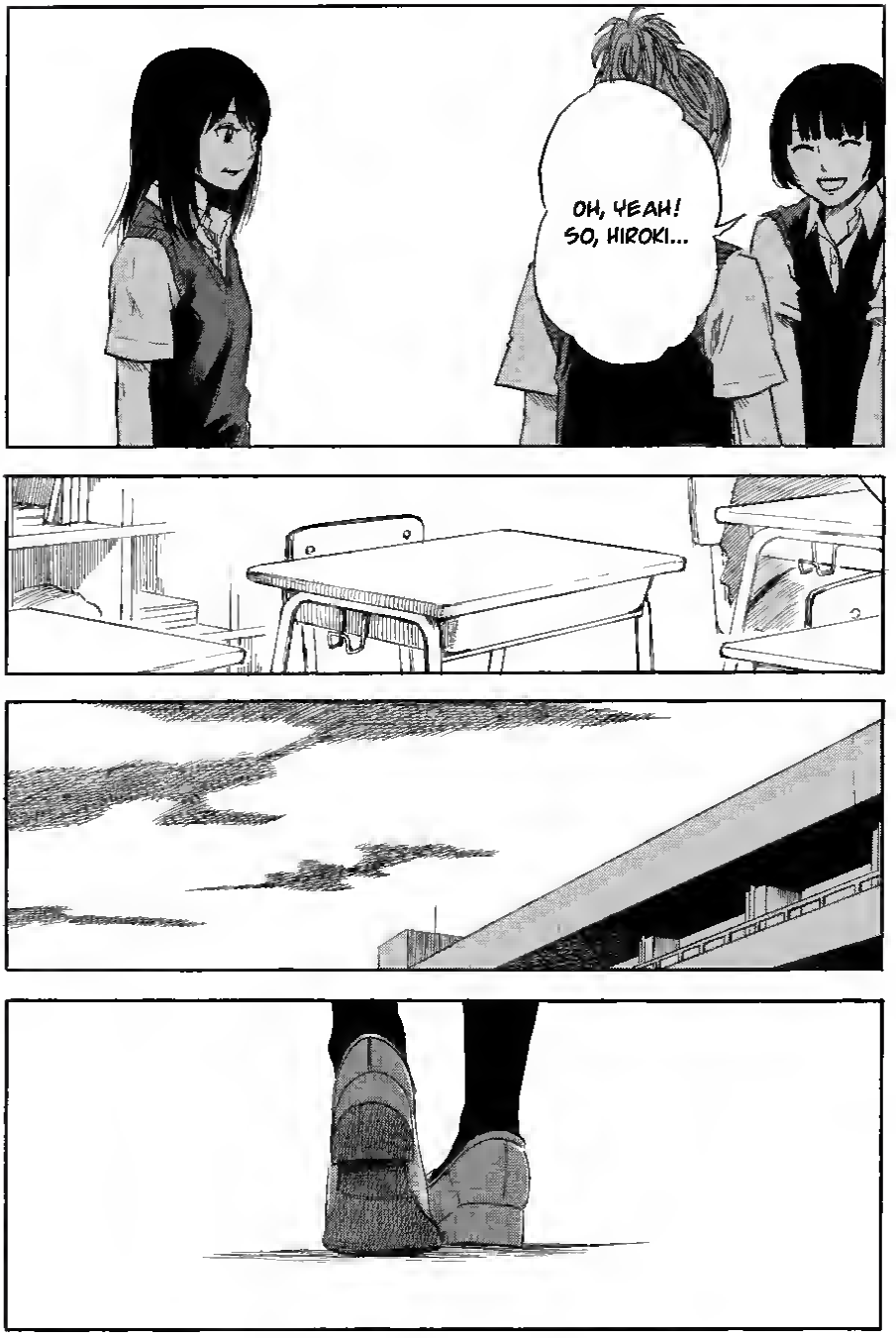
ガラ…
RATTLE
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
BWAHAHAHAHA!

YORI-SAN...
...ISN'T HERE.
HUH? COME ON, WHY NOT?
HIROKI-KUN'S A NICE GUY.
YOU THINK?
I MEAN, YEAH, HE IS NICE...
...BUT...

UM...
GOOD MORNING!
SO, THE OTHER DAY...
MORN-ING.
AH. MORN-ING.
UM...!
UH... UH...
...TO MY PLACE...
...HIROKI CAME OVER...

UH...
HUH?
I... I'M SORRY...
...ABOUT YESTERDAY.
SORRY?
FOR WHAT?
I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY WITH THE KARAOKE...
UH... I MEAN...

IT'S JUST WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE LIKE THAT.
NO. THERE'S NO NEED TO SAY SORRY.
UH... OH... WE DIDN'T MIND, RIGHT?
BUT NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. I BET YOU DON'T GET STRESSED OUT MUCH.
I WAS SURPRISED, IS ALL.
YOU KNOW, LIKE, FREE-SPIRITED.
WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
HUH?
YEAH. ANYWAY, I AM SORRY...
UH...


OH, YEAH!
SO, HIROKI...

BYE!
SEE YA.
HUFF
HUFF

COME TO THINK OF IT...
...I DIDN'T ASK YORI-SAN...
...FOR HER PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS OR ANY-THING.

HANG...

HAVE TO HANG IN THERE...

HANG IN THERE...

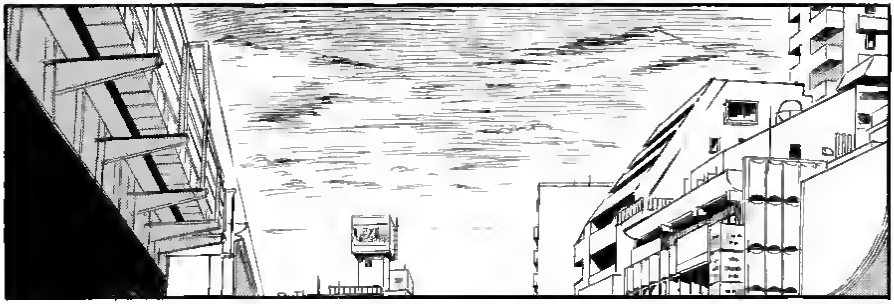
HAVE TO HANG...
...IN THERE...
ヴーン BZZZ
ヴーン BZZZ
ヴーン BZZZ
ヴーン BZZZ

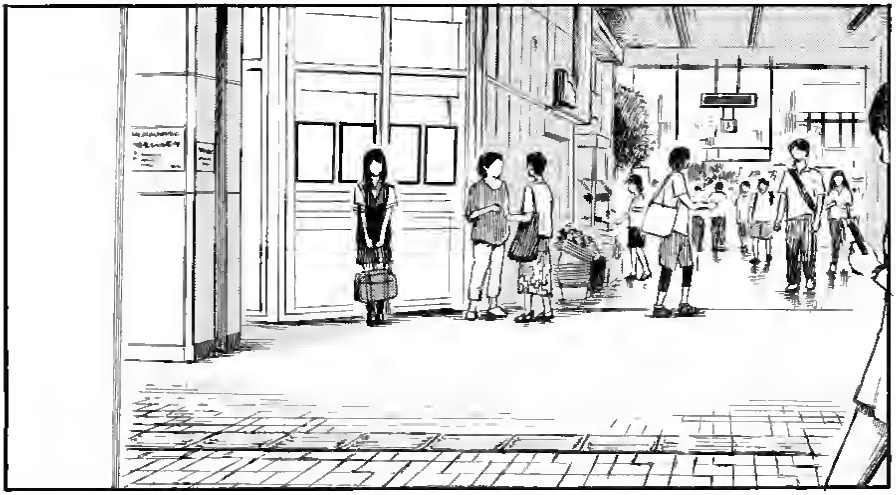
ブーン BZZZ
ブーン BZZZ
ブーン BZZZ
ブーン BZZZ
PHONE CALL
HIROKI-KUN
Mobile 090-XXXX-XXXX
ブーン BZZZ
ブーン BZZZ
SLAP
HIROKI...

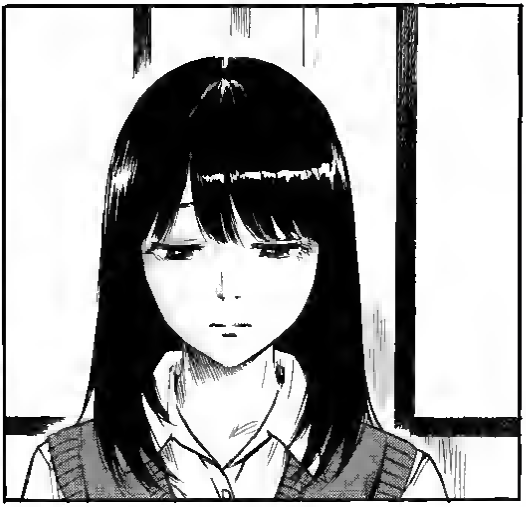
カチ CLICK
ヴーン BZZZ
ヴーン BZZZ
AH...
HELLO?
HELLO?
CAN YOU TALK NOW?
OH, SURE.
NOW'S FINE!

HM?
I HAD FUN YESTERDAY.
ANYWAY, THIS IS GONNA COME OUT OF THE BLUE...
UH... YEAH, ME TOO.
...BUT CAN WE MEET UP NOW?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA ASK YOU.
UNLESS YOU CAN'T?

CHAPTER 20: THE EYES SAY EVERYTHING

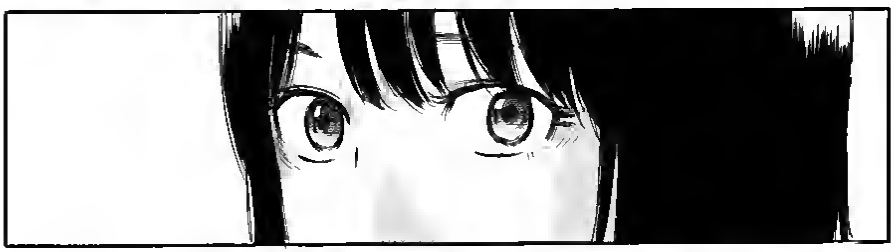






THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA ASK...
CAN YOU MEET ME RIGHT NOW?
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
PLEASE!
UM... BUT...
HUH?
BUT...
...

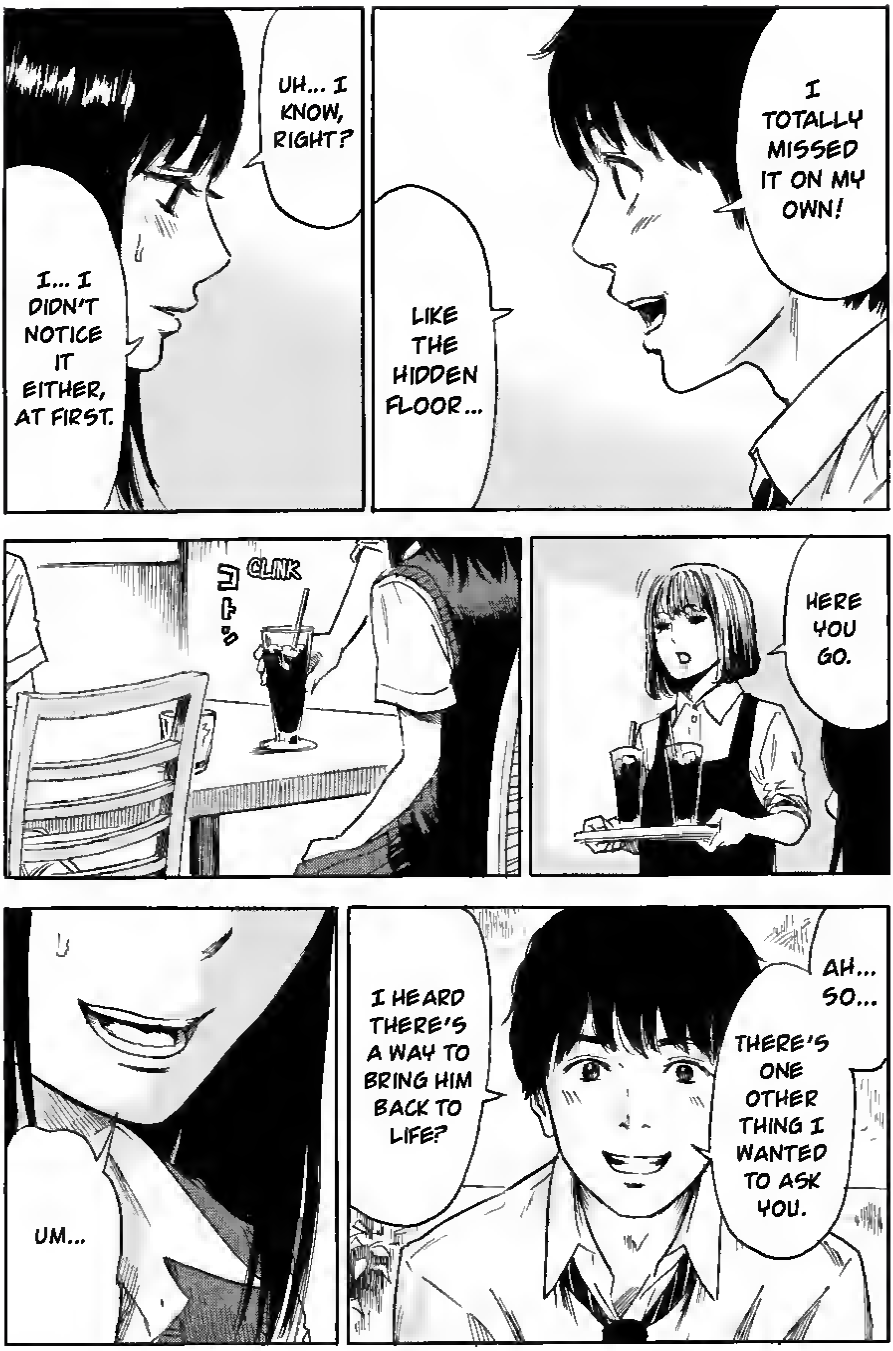
MARI-CHAN!



THANK YOU...
...FOR COMING.
I DIDN'T MIND.

...YOU WANTED TO ASK ME?
WHAT WAS IT...
UM...
WHY DON'T WE SIT DOWN SOME-WHERE AND TALK?
WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
CLINK
ｶﾁｬ

SO, LISTEN...
UH... ME TOO.
ICED COFFEE, PLEASE.
THE FIRST TEMPLE!
IT WAS JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
I TRIED LOOKING AFTER I GOT BACK LAST NIGHT.
OH...
AHH...
SEARCH THE FIRST TEMPLE?
WHY DON'T YOU...
YEAH, EIGHT? I'D FIGURE IT WOULD BE...
YEAH, THAT'S A GOOD ONE, TOO.
AGREED.
HUH?


UH... I KNOW, RIGHT?
I... I DIDN'T NOTICE IT EITHER, AT FIRST.
I TOTALLY MISSED IT ON MY OWN!
LIKE THE HIDDEN FLOOR...
CLINK
コトッ
HERE YOU GO.
UM...
I HEARD THERE'S A WAY TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE?
AH... SO...
THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.

OH...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
SORRY. I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TIME.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY.
AH... NO, NO, NO.
I SEE. SORRY.
HERE GOES...
SLURP

MARI-CHAN...
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND MOMOKA?
HUH?
AFTER KARAOKE YESTER-DAY...
...MOMOKA WAS IN A PRETTY BAD MOOD.

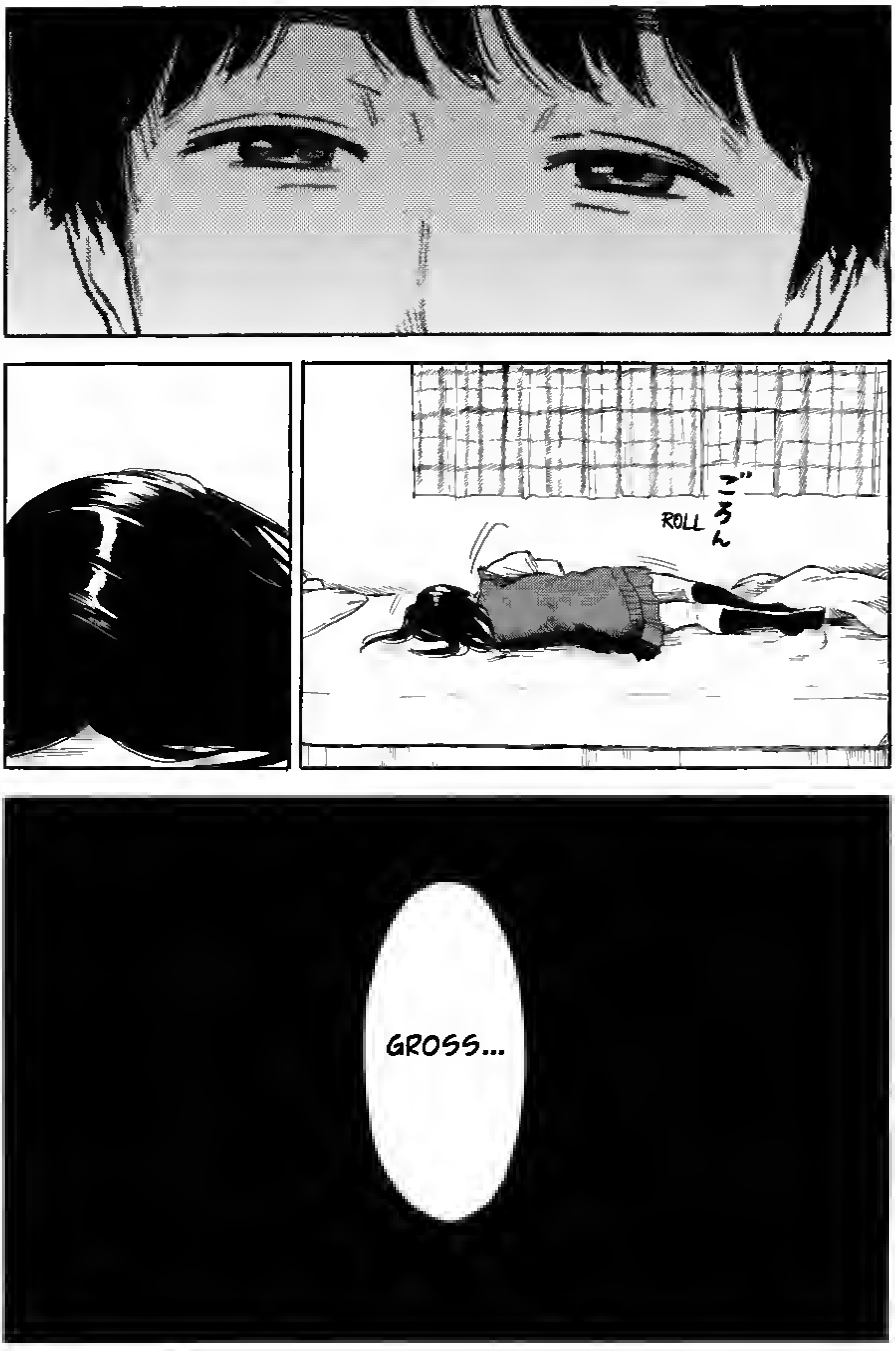
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE FOUGHT LIKE THAT. HA HA...
WE ENDED UP GETTING INTO A FIGHT.
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS ALL NERVES. NO MATTER WHAT I SAID, SHE'D FIND FAULT WITH ME.
...BEING MOMOKA'S BEST FRIEND, AND ALL.
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU KNEW SOMETHING...
MM... NOPE. CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING...
MM... WELL...
WELL?

AH!
カラン
CLINK
OH...
AH... SORRY.
MM?
チュー
SIP
...MOMOKA KNOWS...
MAYBE...
...BEFORE I ASKED HER.
I MEAN, THE FACT THAT I ASKED YOU OUT...

HUH?
UH... OH, I SEE...
WOW... I DON'T KNOW...
I SEE...
AH! JUST SO YOU KNOW, IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME ANYMORE.
I'M HAPPY THAT WE'RE FRIENDS AGAIN AND CAN GO OUT LIKE THIS.

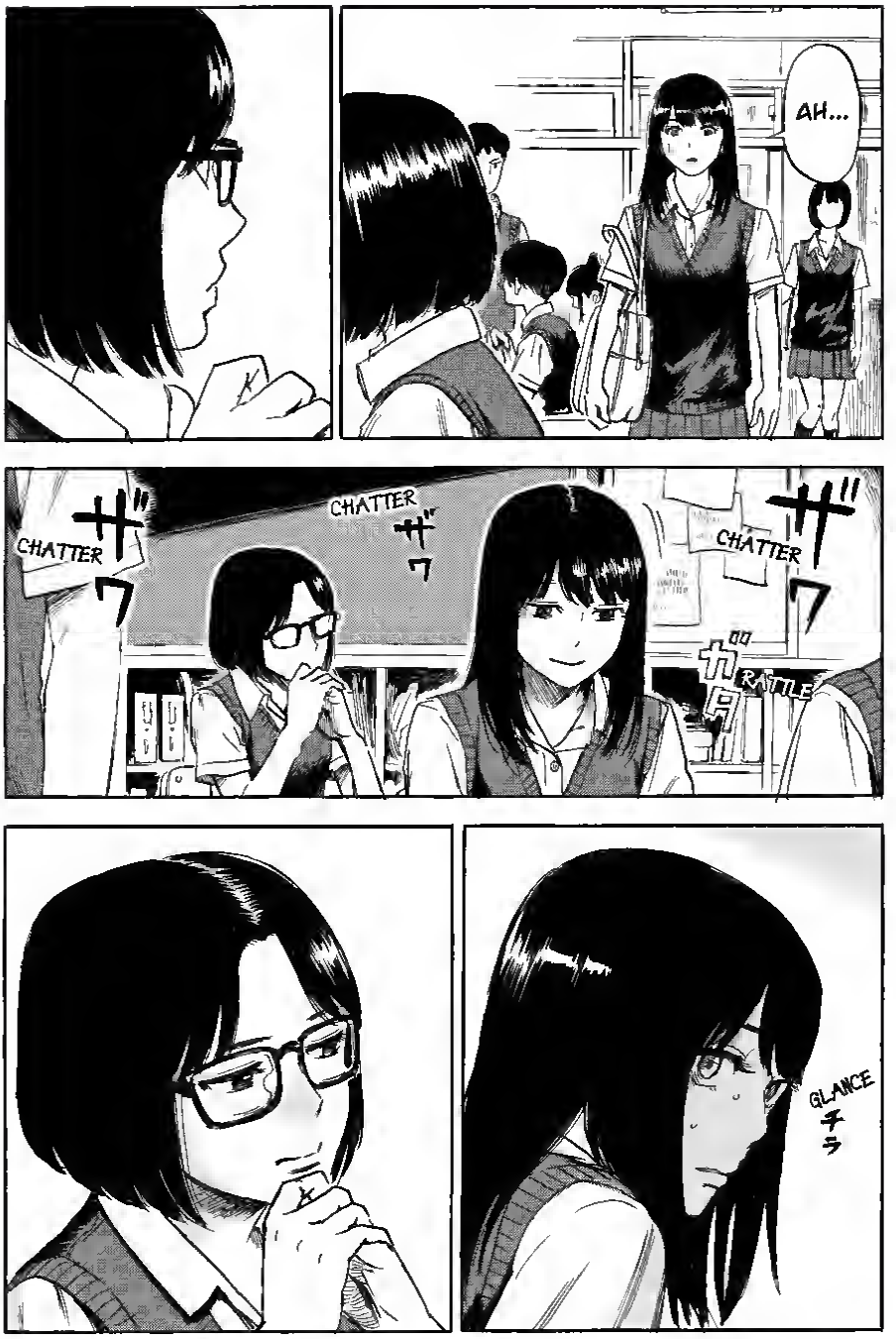
SORRY. I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
BUT THANKS.
HUH? UH... SURE.
OKAY.
WELL, IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING FROM MOMOKA, WOULD YOU LET ME KNOW?
NEXT TIME, LET'S PLAY VIDEO GAMES AT MY HOUSE.
OKAY?
UH... YEAH...

THROB
ズン
THROB
ズン
THROB
ズン
THROB
ズン
ズン


ごろん
ROLL
GROSS...

MORN-
ING!
AH!
MORN-
ING!
ガラ
RATTLE

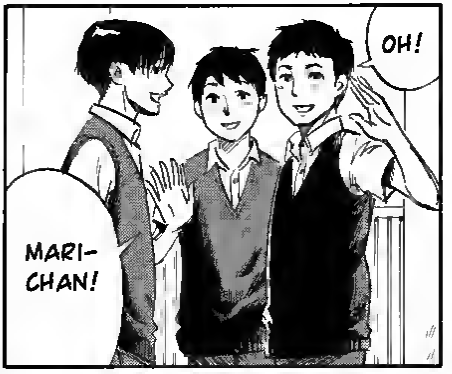
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ

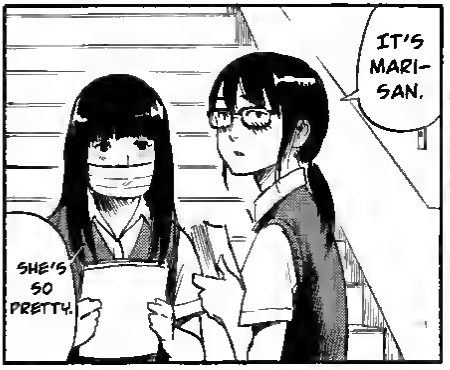

AH...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
RATTLE
GLANCE

MARI!
GOOD MORNING.
AH...

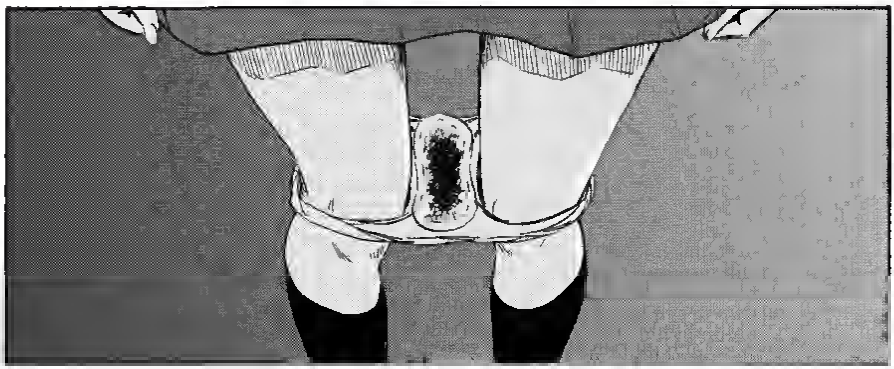
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU LATER.

CHAPTER 21: BANISHED BY THE GIRLS


OH!
MARI-CHAN!


IT'S MARI-SAN.
SHE'S SO PRETTY.

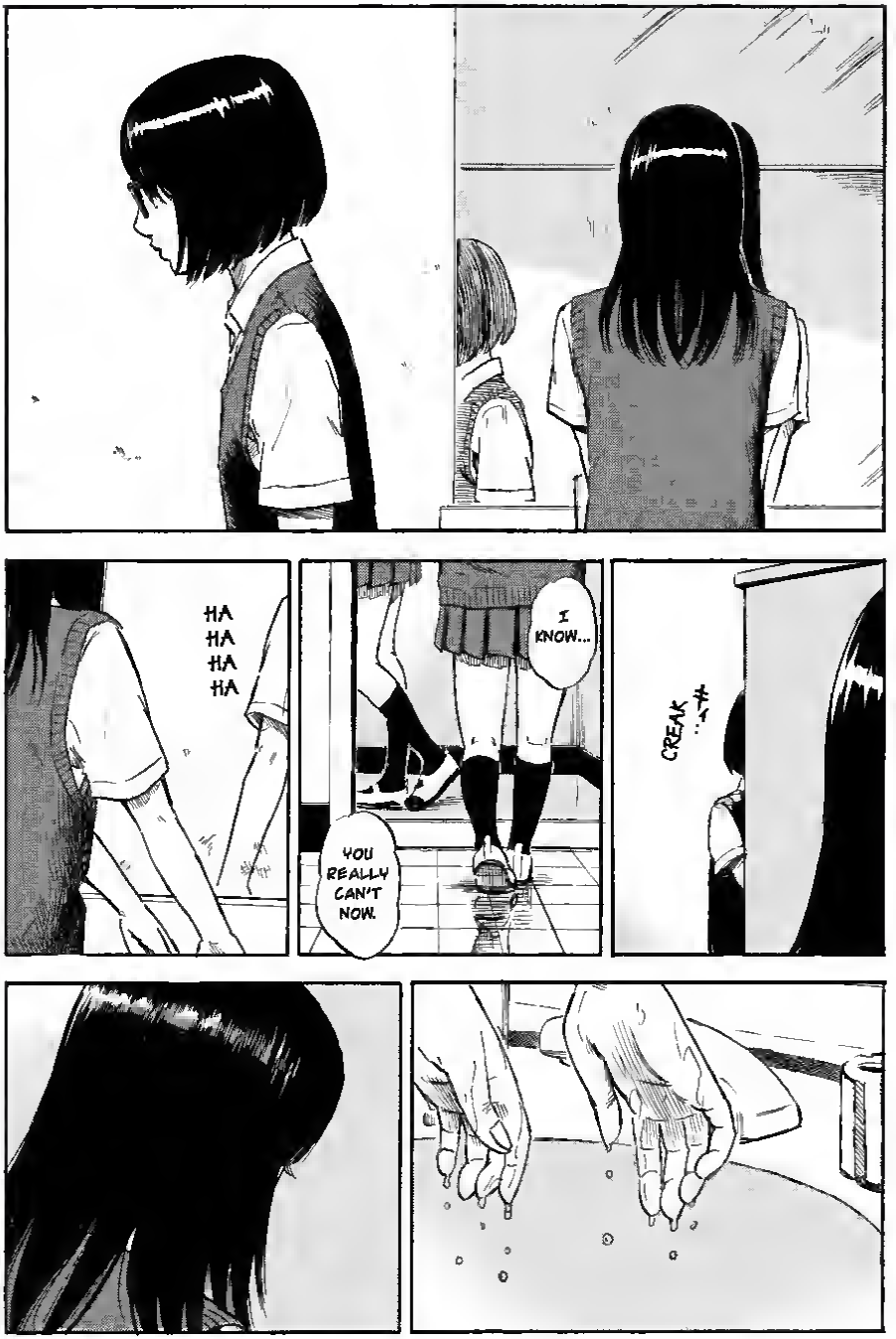
MARI!

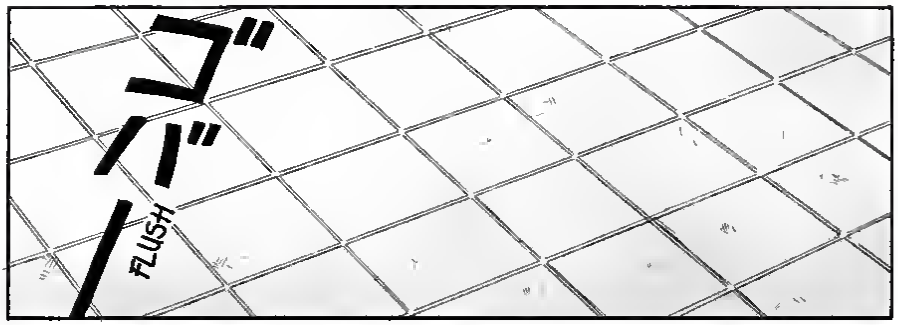


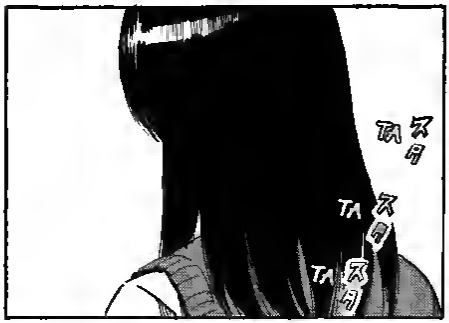
SSSSS
HUH? THAT'S WEIRD!
RIGHT?

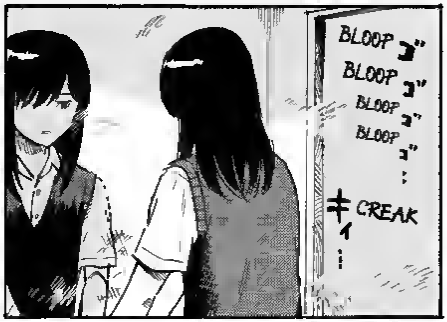
FLUSH

I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY!


HA
HA
HA
HA
I KNOW...
YOU REALLY CAN'T NOW.
CREAK
HA...


ゴー
FLUSH


タタタタタ

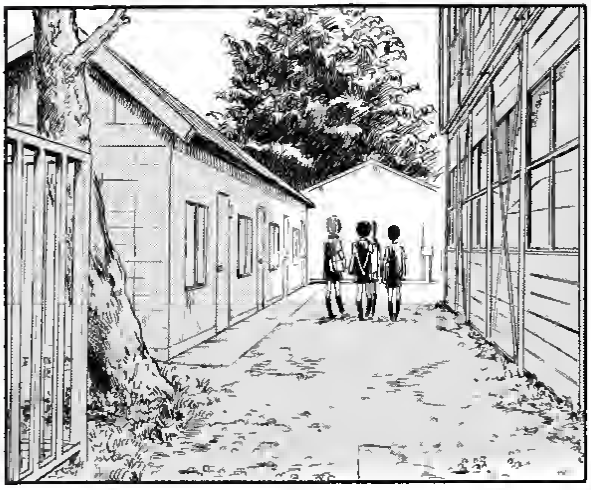

BLOOP ゴ"
BLOOP ゴ"
BLOOP ゴ"
BLOOP ゴ"
CREAK
キィ…

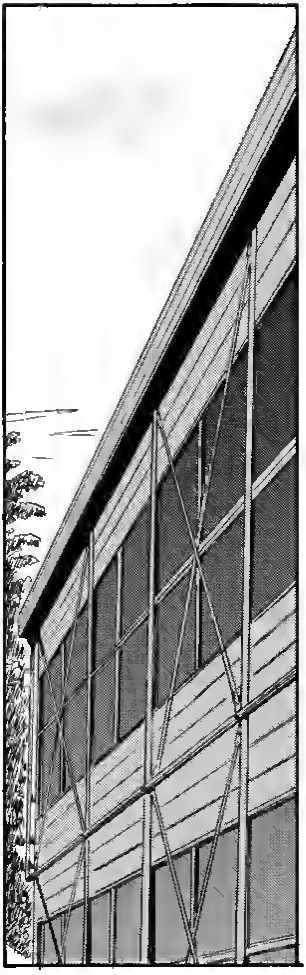
YORI-SAN.
I'M SORRY.

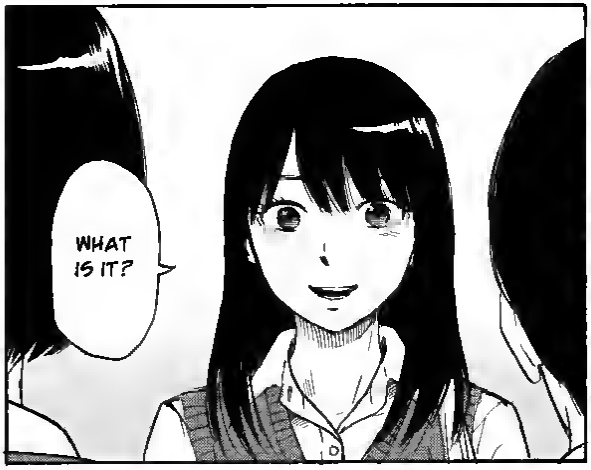
TA タ
TA タ
TA タ
キーンコーンカーン
DING DONG
DING DONG

MARI.
URP...
HA HA HA!
LET'S DROP BY A BOOK-STORE.
ALL RIGHT!
DAY'S FINALLY OVER!
...FOR A MINUTE, OKAY?
COME WITH ME...

RATTLE






WHAT IS IT?

I WANT YOU TO ANSWER ME HONESTLY.
LOOK, MARI...
YOU MET WITH HIROKI YESTERDAY...
...DIDN'T YOU?

WE DID MEET, BUT...
UM...
YES.
WHO...
...INVITED WHOM?
UM... HE DID.
HIROKI-KUN INVITED ME...
HUH?
OH...
INVITED YOU WHERE?
HUH.

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
UH...
TO A CAFE IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
ALSO...
UM...
VIDEO GAMES...
UM... NOT A LOT...
HE ASKED ME IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED.
THAT WAS WHAT HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT.
HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

MARI...
DIDN'T YOU GIVE ANY THOUGHT...
...ABOUT HOW MOMOKA WOULD FEEL...
...WHEN SHE FOUND OUT YOU MET WITH HIROKI-KUN ALONE?
HUH?
HOW SHE WOULD FEEL...

ALL I DID WAS LISTEN TO HIM ABOUT IT... HONEST!
I MEAN, HIROKI-KUN WAS WORRIED ABOUT MOMOKA-CHAN...
AH! WAIT A SECOND.
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!
...WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME MOMOKA-CHAN?
AGAIN...
AH...
HUH?

I KNOW.
MARI...
MOMO-KA...
HUH?

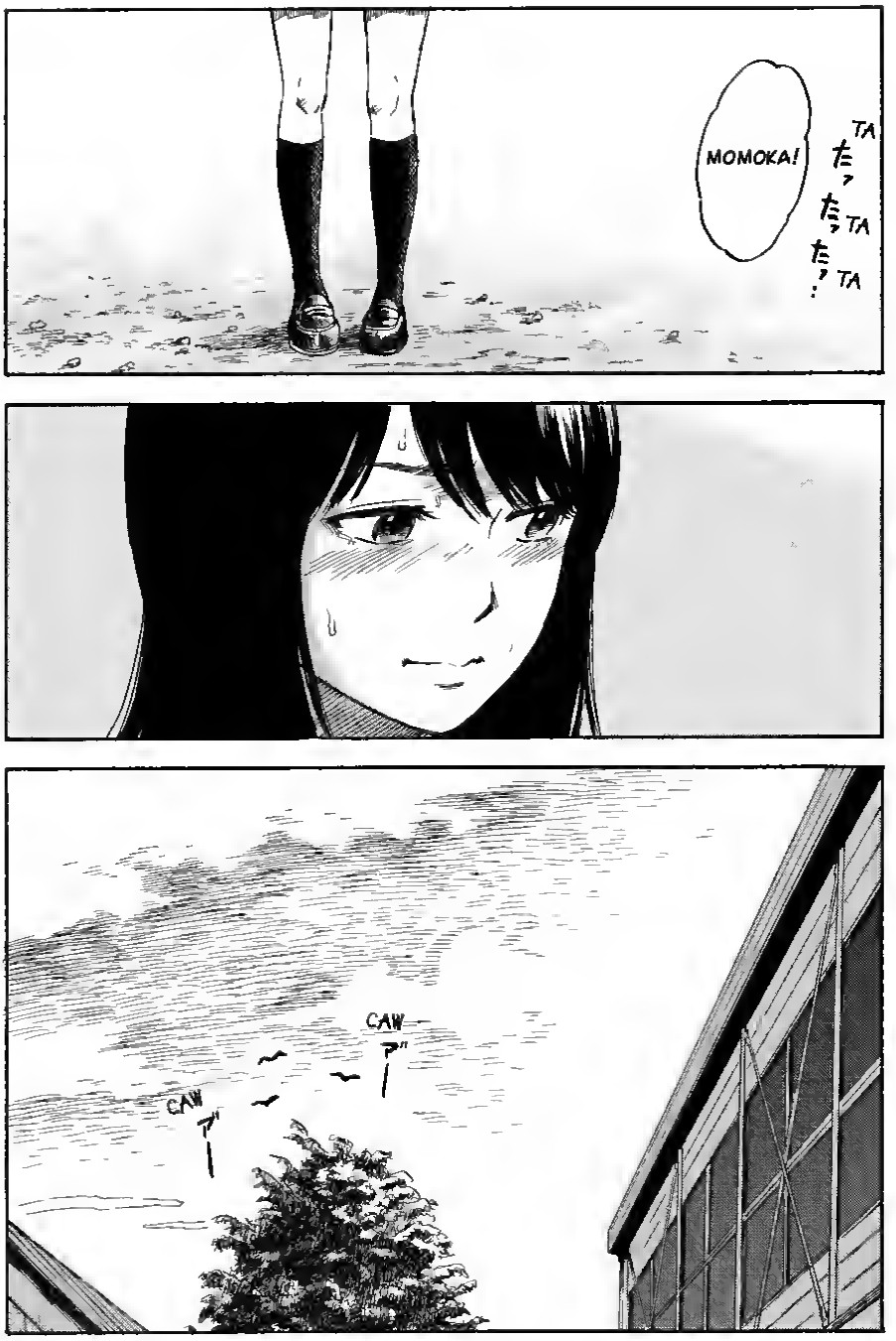
BEFORE HIROKI AND I STARTED DATING...
...HE ASKED MARI OUT.
MOMOKA!
MOMOKA!
AH...

UH...
I SEE...
AH!
UM...
SORRY...
I'M SORRY THAT IT GOT TAKEN THE WRONG WAY...
...BUT REALLY, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT! I SWEAR!
BUT... UM...
I PROMISE THE TWO OF US WON'T MEET AGAIN! YEAH!

HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT MOMOKA'S FEELINGS?!
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO...?
I SAID I WAS SORRY...
FEELINGS?
FORGET IT!
MARI!

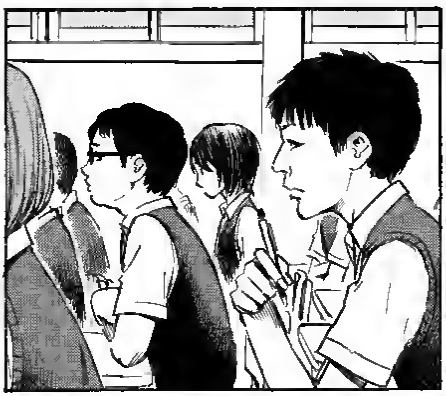
THAT'S ENOUGH.
THANK YOU, YOU TWO...
AH!
MOMOKA!
タッ
TA
CHFF
"H"

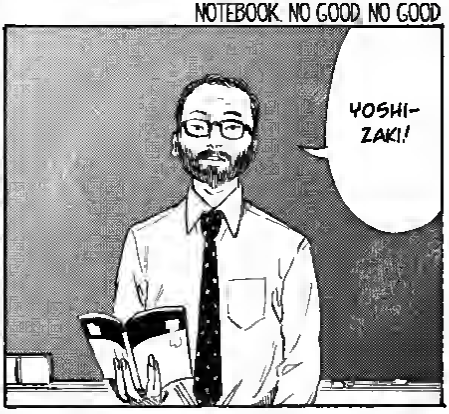
MOMOKA, WAIT!
たったったっ
TA TA TA
MOMOKA!
MARI...
I'VE LOST RESPECT FOR YOU.


MOMOKA!
TA
TA
TA
TA
CAW
CAW

CHAPTER 22: STAGNATING ATMOSPHERE

NOTEBOOK. NO GOOD. NO GOOD.

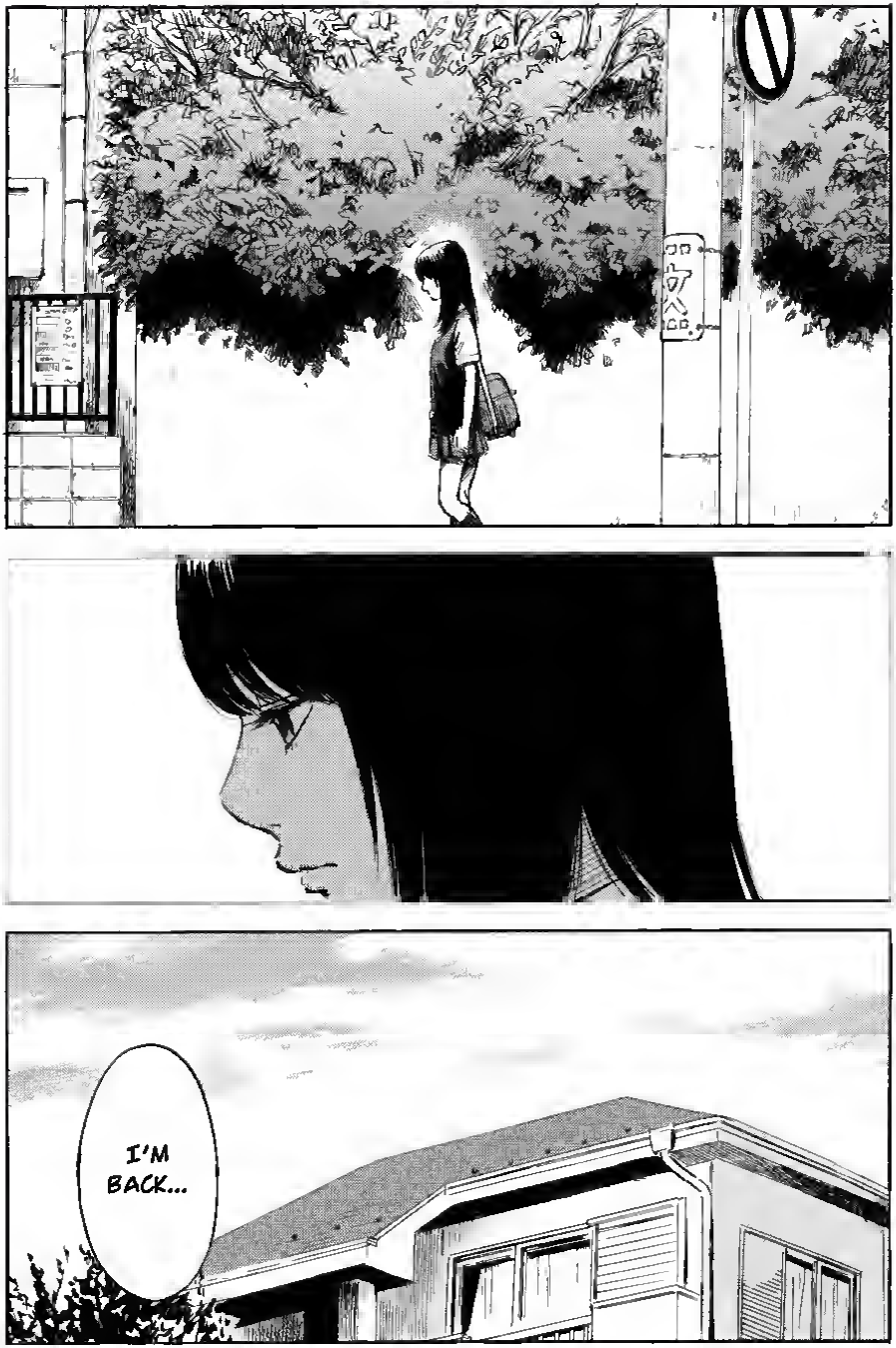




I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
YES. SORRY.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU LATELY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AGAIN?
CHATTER
DING DONG
CHATTER
CHATTER
DING DONG
DING DONG

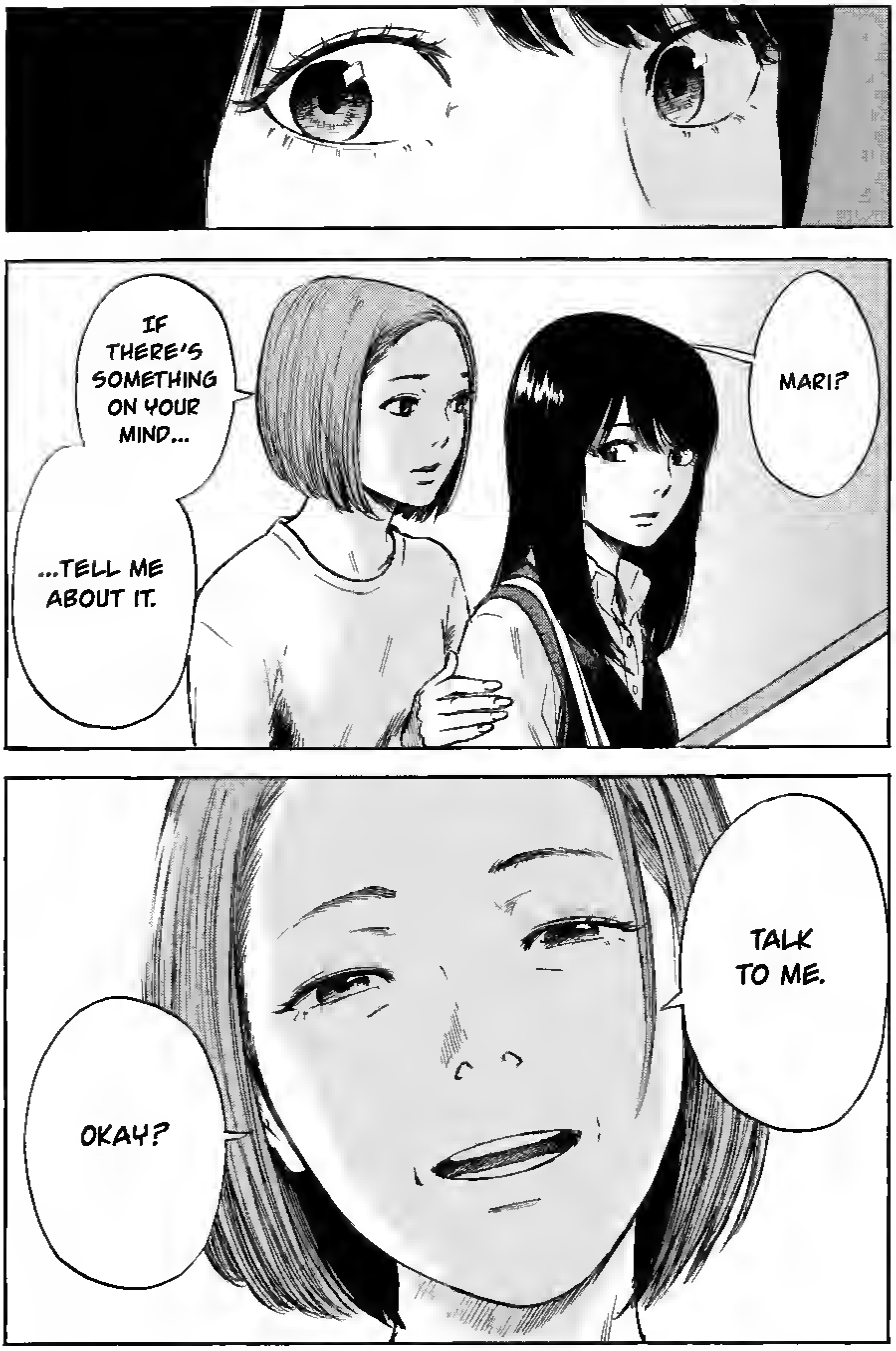
WHY DON'T WE GO TO SHINJUKU?
WHAT DO YOU WANNA TODAY?
AH! GREAT IDEA!
MAYBE I'LL BUY THAT SKIRT I'VE WANTED...
YAY!
THERE'S A SALE GOING ON NOW.
I NOTICE YOU'VE BEEN ALONE A LOT LATELY.
HEY...
MARI-CHAN!

YOU DON'T GO OUT WITH MOMOKA AND THE REST ANYMORE?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T WE...
HA HA HA!
AH!
HUH?
UH... THANKS.
RATTLE
ガタ
BUT I'M FINE.
SEE YOU.


I'M BACK...

OH.
WELCOME HOME.
MARI!
WAIT A MINUTE!
HUH?

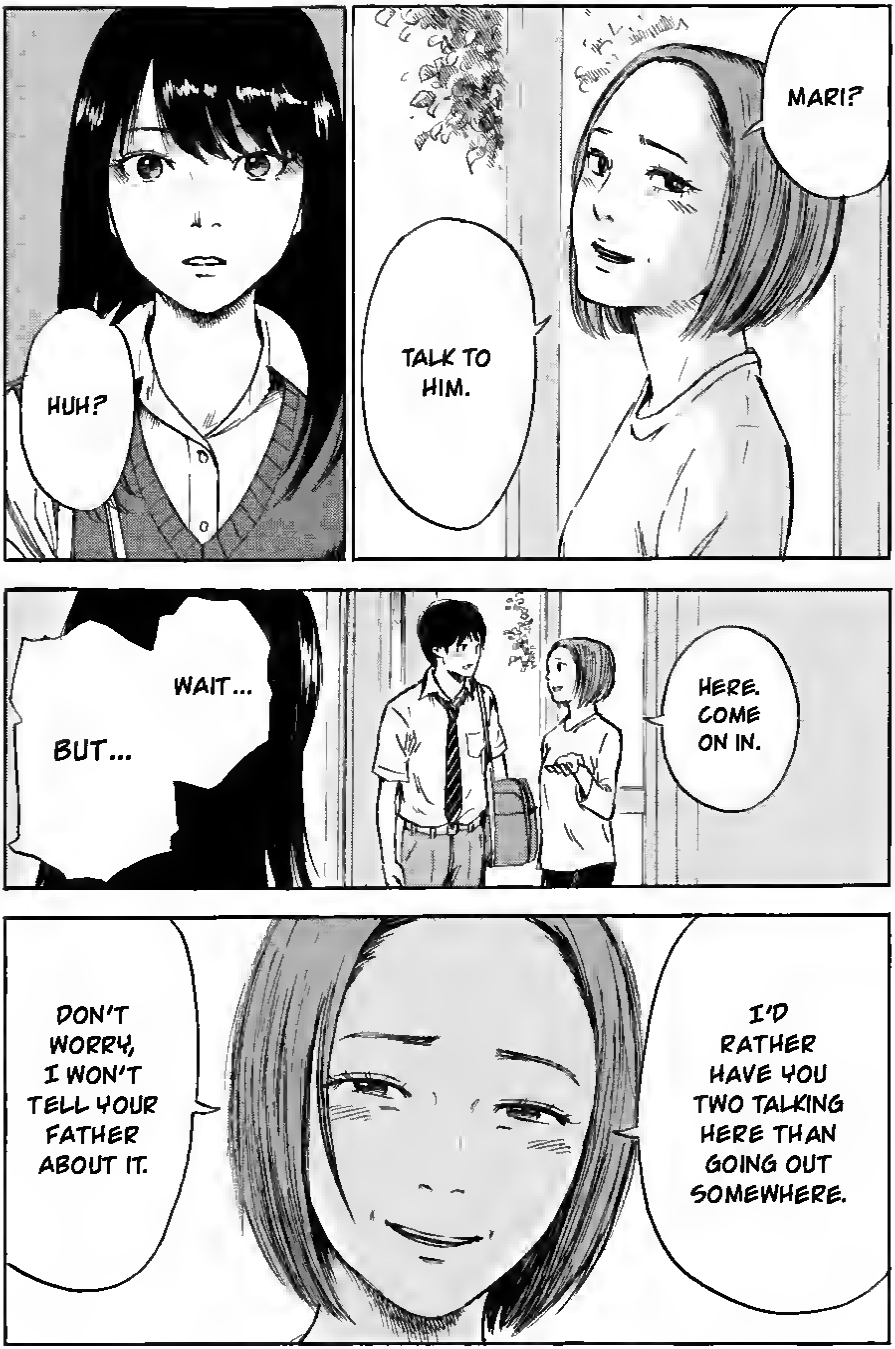
MARI...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOUR SHOES...
LOOK AT THE WAY YOU LEFT THEM.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU LATELY?
LEAVING YOUR CLOTHES LYING AROUND...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.

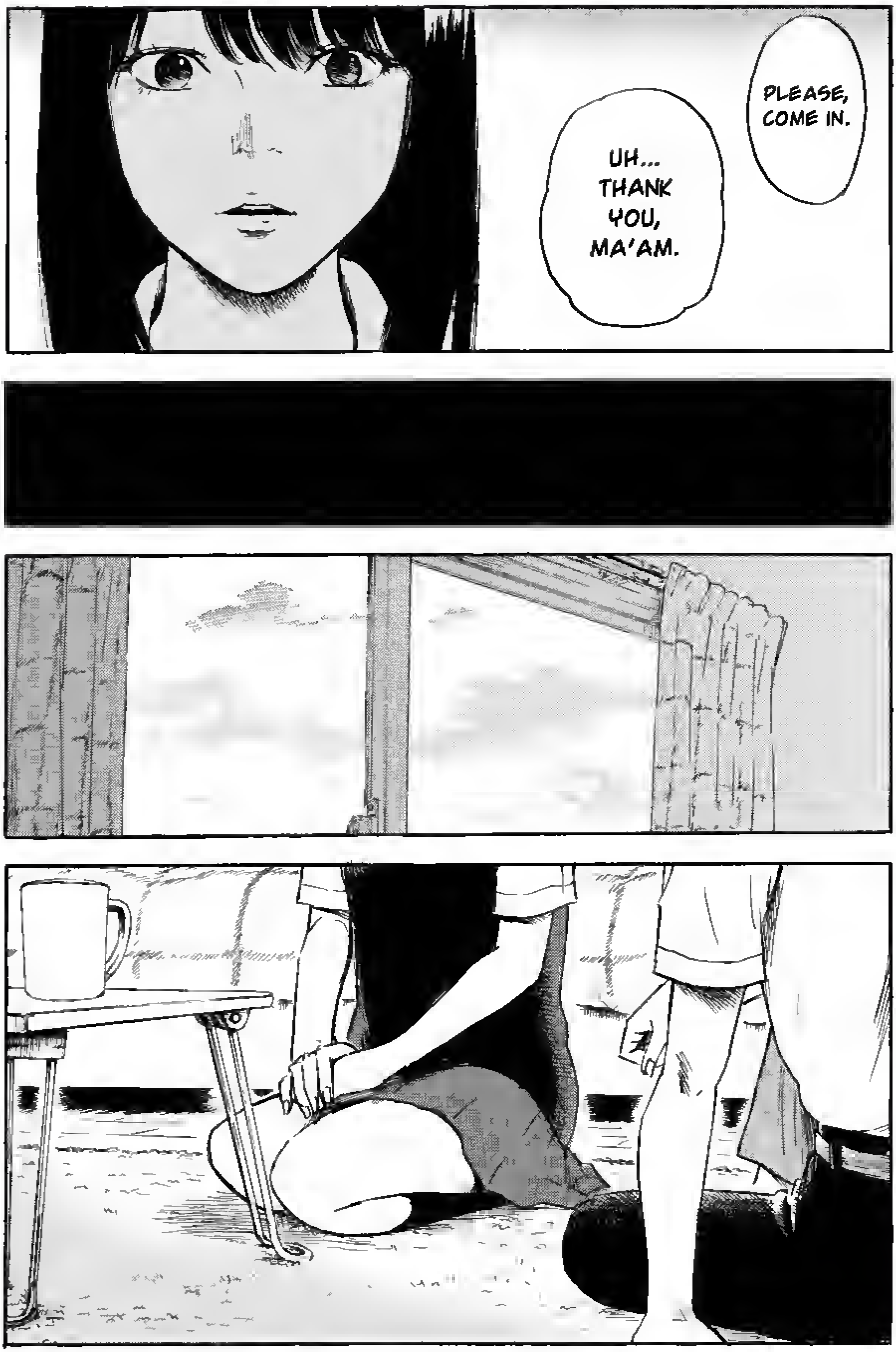

MARI?
IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND...
...TELL ME ABOUT IT.
TALK TO ME.
OKAY?

ピンポーン
DING DONG
ピンポーン
DING DONG
ドタドタドタ
TA TA TA
COMING!
AH...
YES?
OH.
SURE. JUST A SECOND.

I'M HIROKI SAKAMOTO, A FRIEND OF MARI-CHAN'S.
UH... HELLO. NICE TO MEET YOU!
HELLO.

SORRY FOR SUDDENLY COMING OVER!
AH... MARI-CHAN! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE...
PLEASE, CAN WE JUST TALK FOR A FEW MINUTES?
YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED ANY OF MY CALLS OR TEXTS, SO I'VE BEEN WORRIED...
UH...
NOW ISN'T REALLY A...
...


HUH?
MARI?
TALK TO HIM.
WAIT...
BUT...
HERE. COME ON IN.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL YOUR FATHER ABOUT IT.
I'D RATHER HAVE YOU TWO TALKING HERE THAN GOING OUT SOMEWHERE.


PLEASE, COME IN.
UH... THANK YOU, MA'AM.

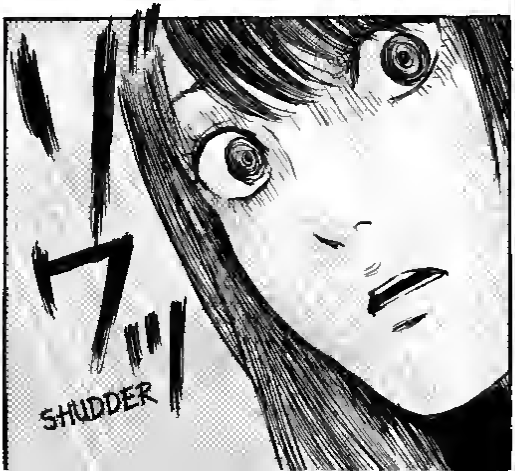
UH...
MARI-CHAN...
UM...
I WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY...
I HEAR... UH...
...THAT YOU AND MOMOKA ARE ON THE OUTS?

UM...
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THAT TO HAPPEN...
IF MOMOKA-CHA... IF MOMOKA FINDS OUT WE MET AGAIN, SHE'LL BLOW A GASKET.
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
MARI-CHAN...
YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.
OKAY?

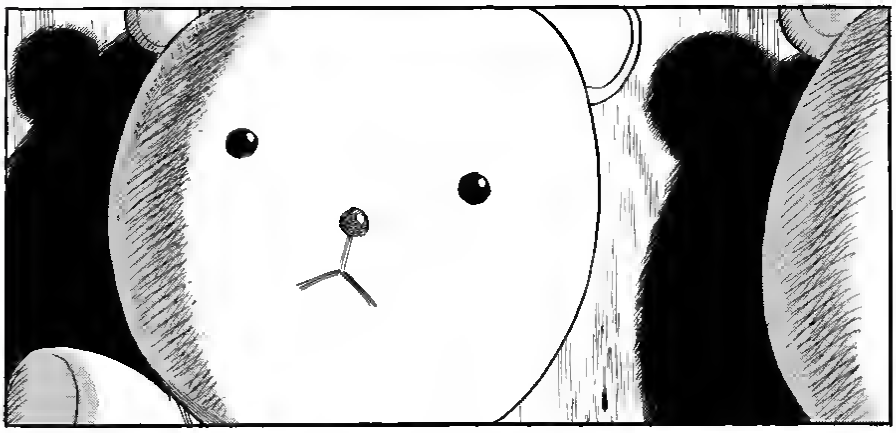
I BROKE UP WITH MOMOKA.
HUH?
I...
I DIDN'T WANT TO LIE ANYMORE...
I...
I JUST DIDN'T...

...ABOUT MY FEELINGS.
TWITCH
いくら

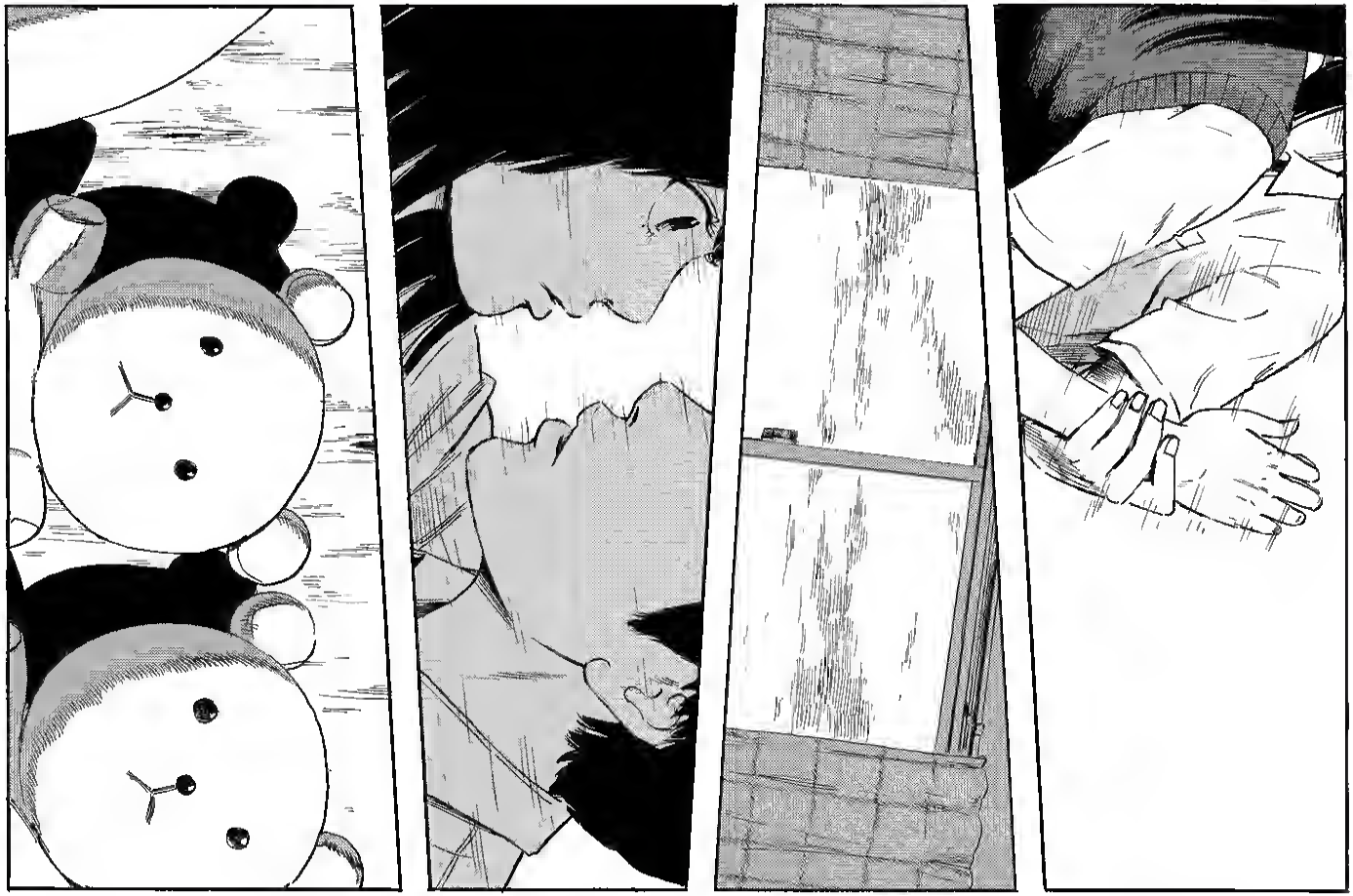
MARI-
CHAN...


SHUDDER

DON'T...
SWISH
UH...



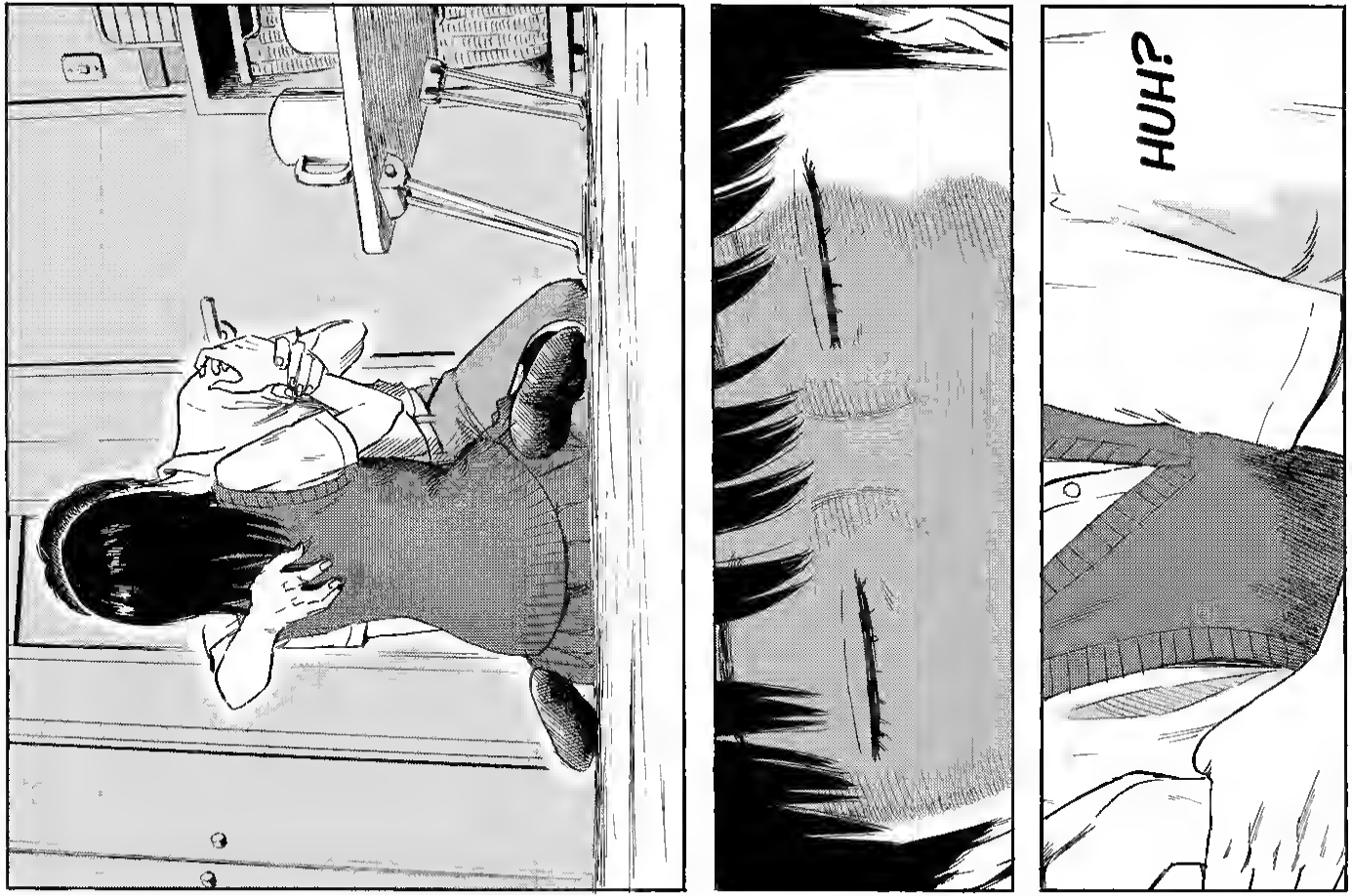
MOMOKA'S BOYFRIEND, HIROKI, SUDDENLY PAYS A VISIT. HE TELLS HER, "I BROKE UP WITH MOMOKA." AND THEN...

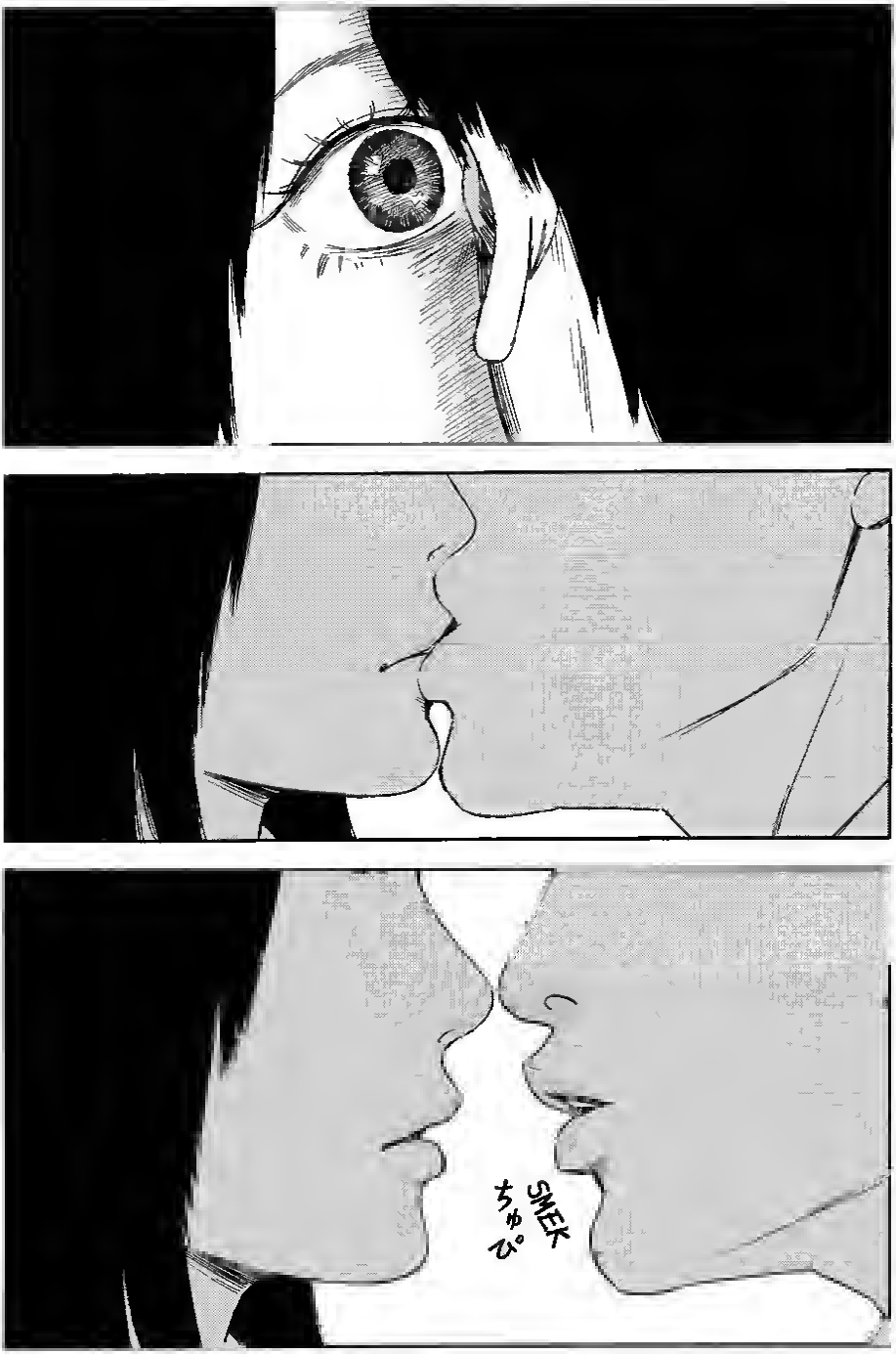


CHAPTER 23: COMING OUT

MY FIRST KISS WAS LIKE THIS...

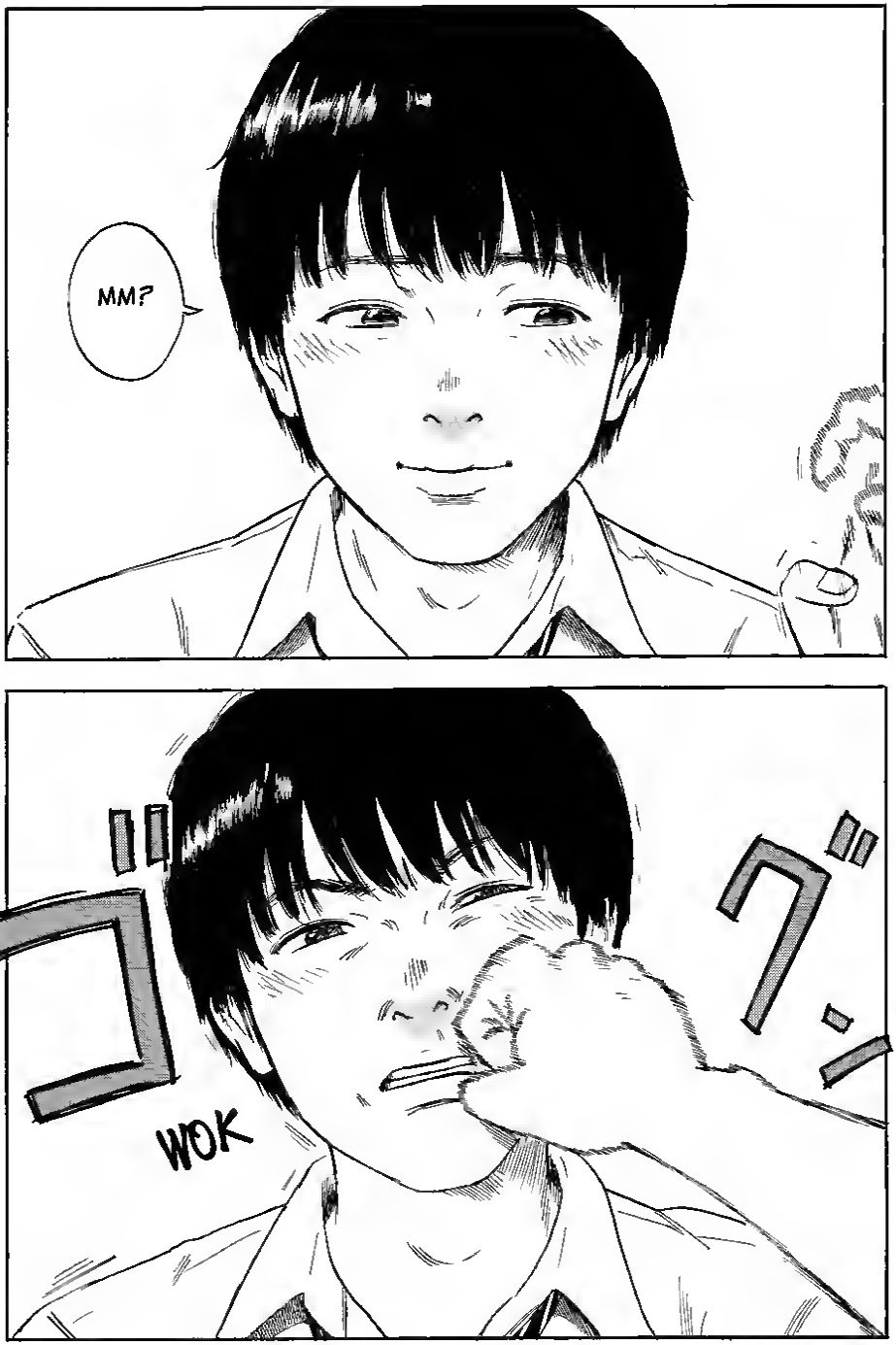
SUMMARY: I'M A COLLEGE STUDENT, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A SINGLE FRIEND IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. THE ONLY PLEASURE IN MY LIFE WAS REGULARLY FOLLOWING HOME A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL (WHOSE NAME I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW) FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE. ONE NIGHT, I WAS FOLLOWING HER AS USUAL, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS. I WOKE UP IN HER BED... WITH MY MIND IN HER BODY! HER NAME IS MARI AND THAT DAY, I WENT TO HER SCHOOL, PRETENDING TO BE HER. AFTER SCHOOL, I WENT TO MY APARTMENT, ONLY TO FIND THAT MARI-SAN'S MIND WASN'T IN *MY* BODY...

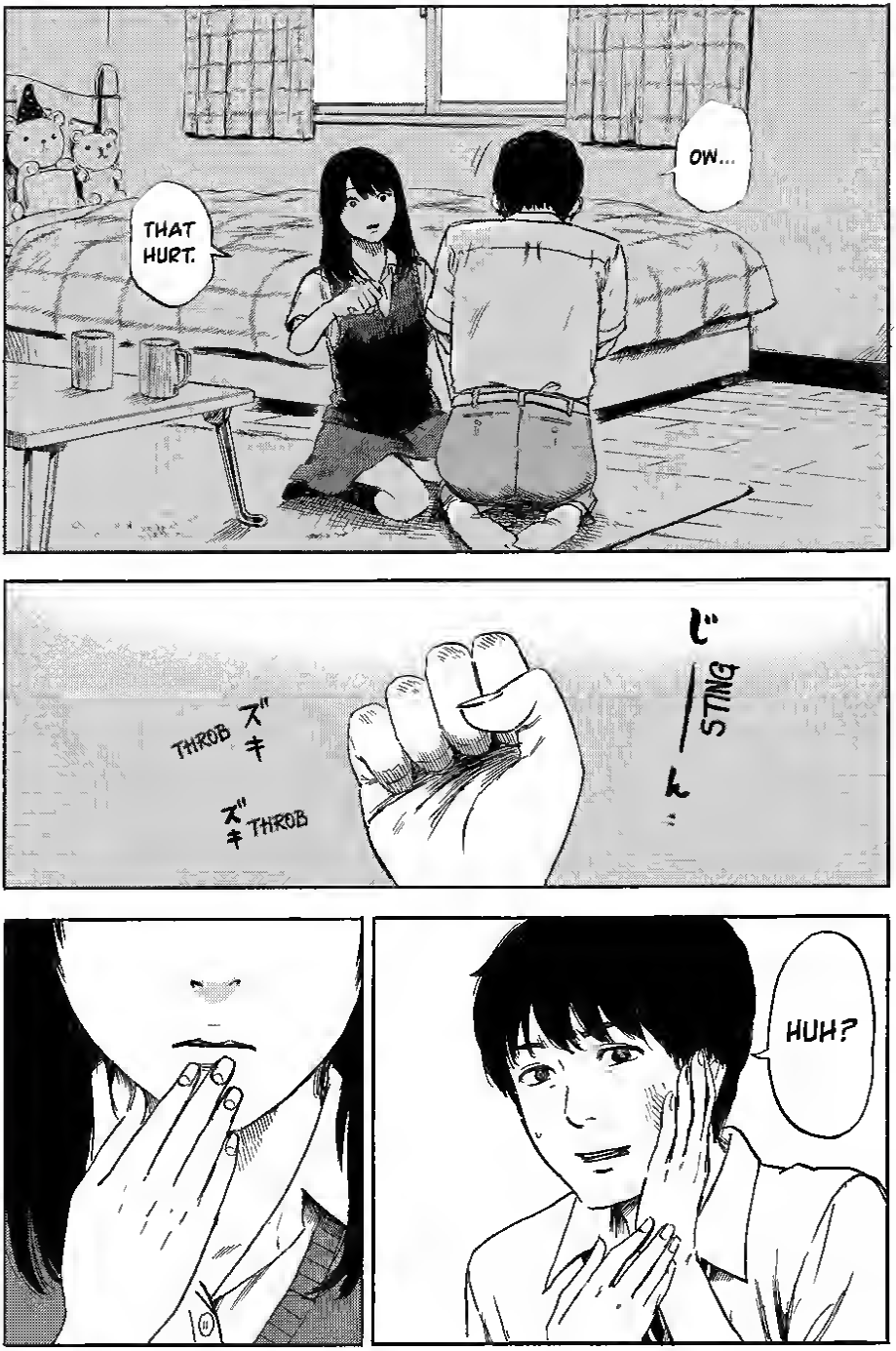



SMEK
ちゅぴ

HUH?
...

SQUEEZE
ギュッ…
THAT...
...FELT GREAT TO ME.
HOW ABOUT YOU, MARI-CHAN?


MM?
WOK


OW...
THAT HURT.
じーん
STING
ズキ
THROB
ズキ
THROB
HUH?

AH...
AH...

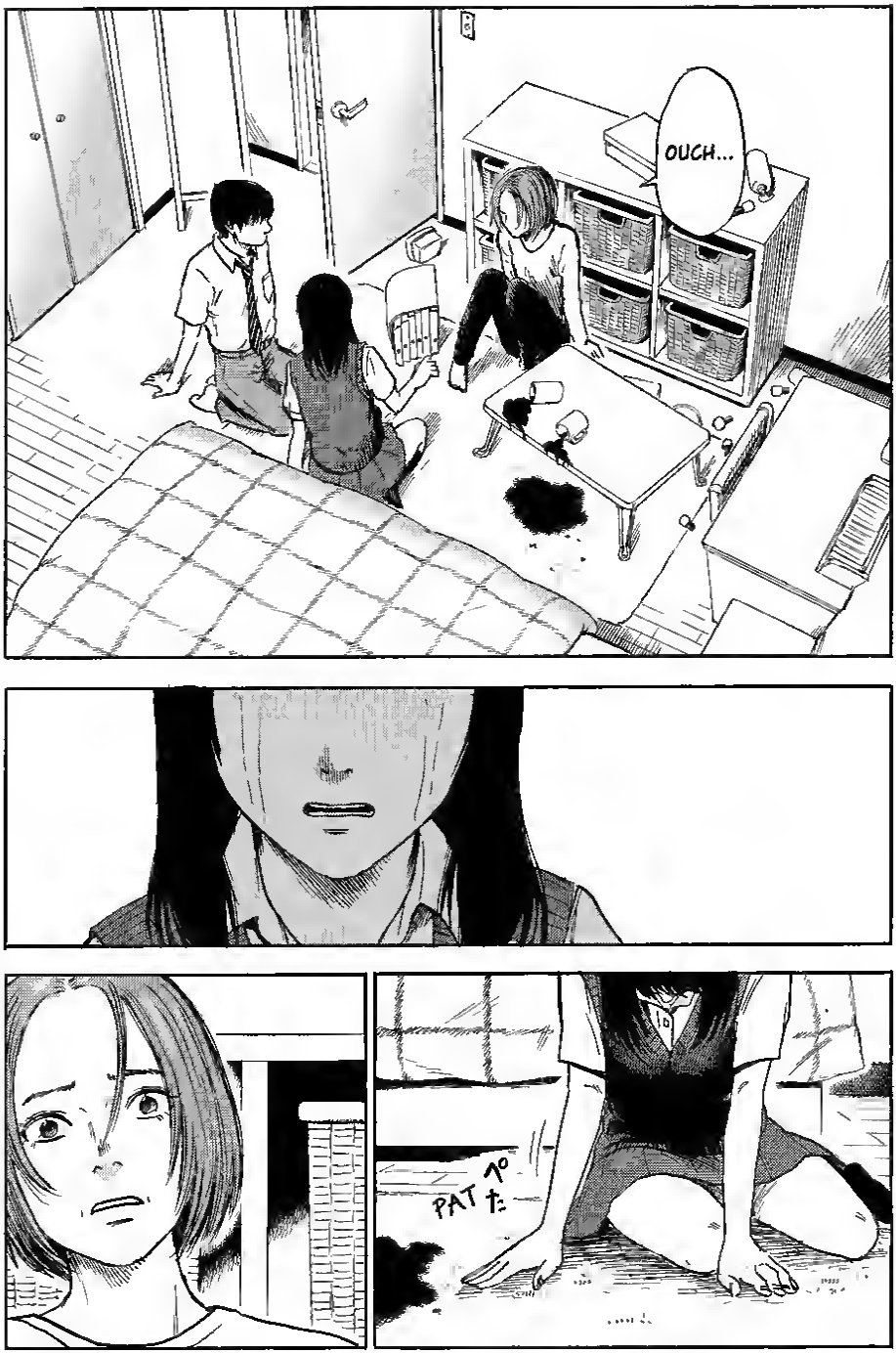
GOD...
DAMN ...
IT...

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
WHAK
ボカッ
!
HUH?
OW...
WAIT A SEC...
GIVE IT BACK!

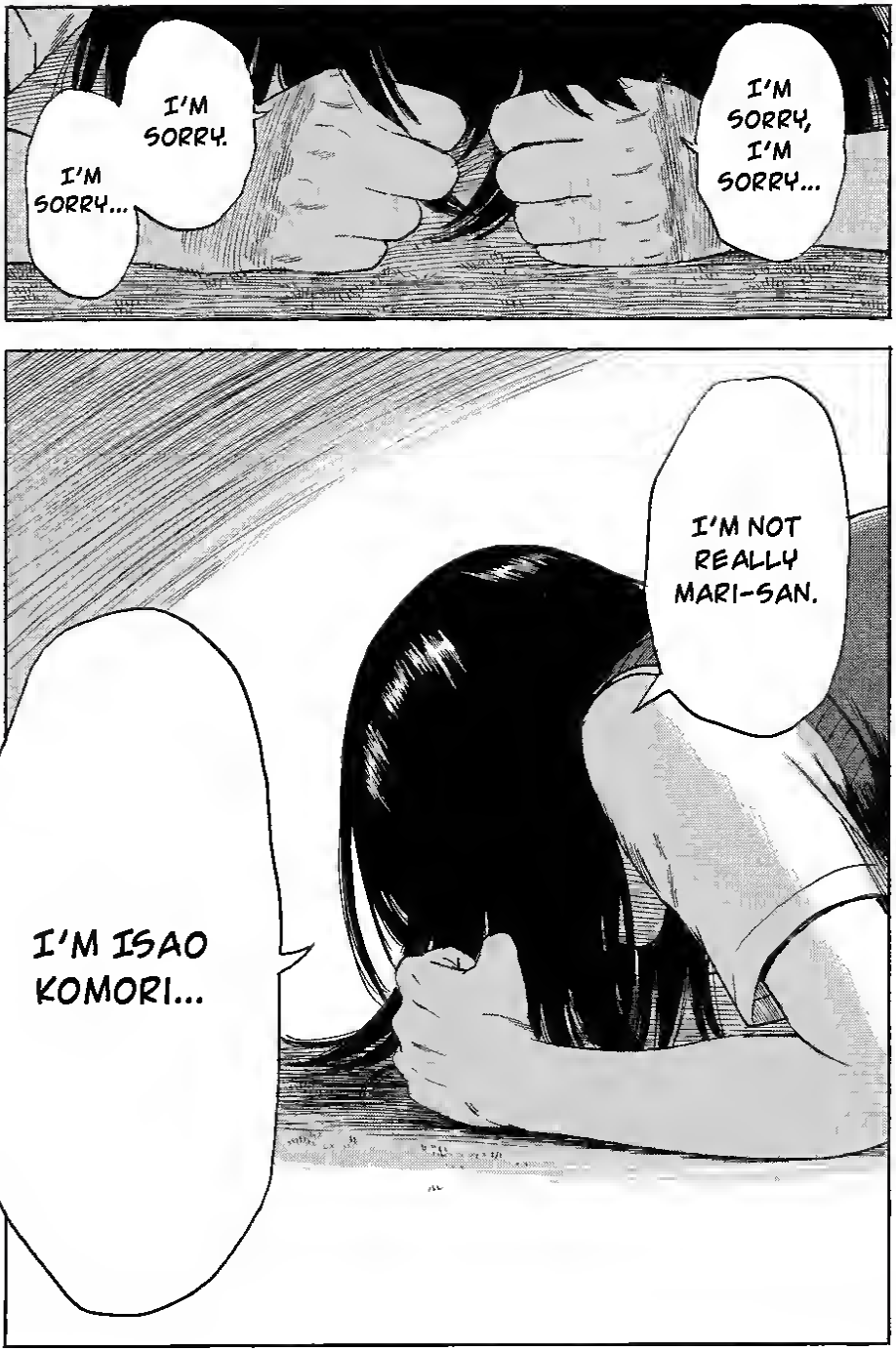
GIVE IT BACK!
GIVE IT BACK!
HUH?
ガチャ
KA-CHA
どたどた
THUD
THUD

GIVE IT BACK!
MARI?
MARI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MARI! STOP IT!
GIVE IT BACK!
MARI!

AIEEE!
SHOVE
OUTTA MY WAY!
CRA
SH

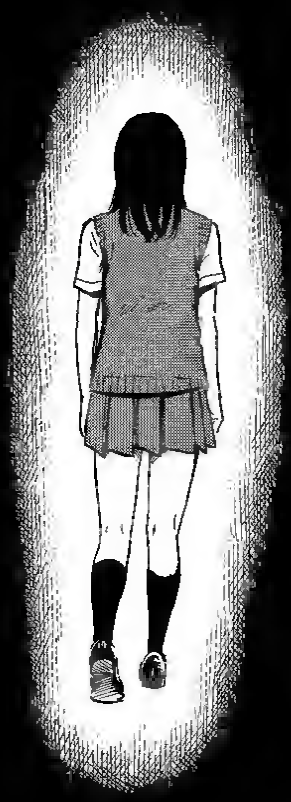

OUCH...
PAT
ナで

I CAN'T DO THIS...
I CAN'T TAKE ANY-MORE ...
AND I WANT TO PROTECT HER SO BADLY...
I CARE ABOUT HER SO MUCH...
NOW IT'S IN TATTERS!
WRECK MARI-SAN'S LIFE...
BUT ALL I'VE DONE IS...


I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY...
I'M NOT REALLY MARI-SAN.
I'M ISAO KOMORI...

I NEVER... I NEVER WANTED THIS TO HAPPEN.
ALL I WANTED... WAS TO TALK TO MARI-SAN.
I WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER. I WANTED HER TO TELL ME SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME.
I WANTED HER TO KISS ME.
I WANTED TO HAVE SEX WITH HER.
I WANTED TO MARRY HER.
I WANTED HER TO RESCUE ME...
...FROM THE ABYSS I WAS IN.

I SHOULD'VE TALKED TO HER...
...BUT I WAS AFRAID.
I WAS SCARED OF BEING ACKNOWL-EDGED BY MARI-SAN.
I RAN AWAY...
I RAN AWAY FROM EVERY-THING...
I WAS JUST RUNNING AWAY!
I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY!
PLEASE LET ME GO HOME!
I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON!



PLEASE...

WAAAAAAH

WAAAAAAH

I HAVE A BREAKDOWN.

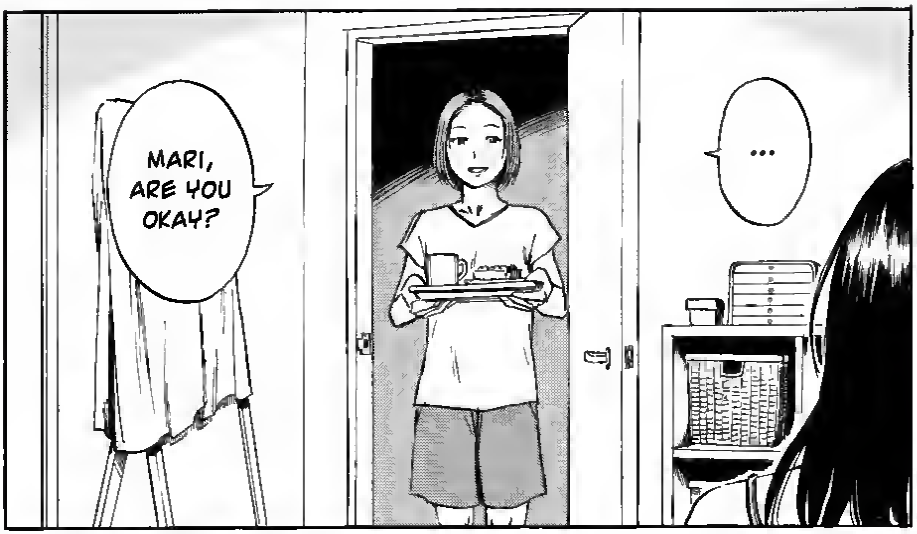
END: THE NEXT CHAPTER WILL BE OUT ON 2/5!

CHAPTER 24: I'M ISAO KOMORI.

CHIRP
CHIRP

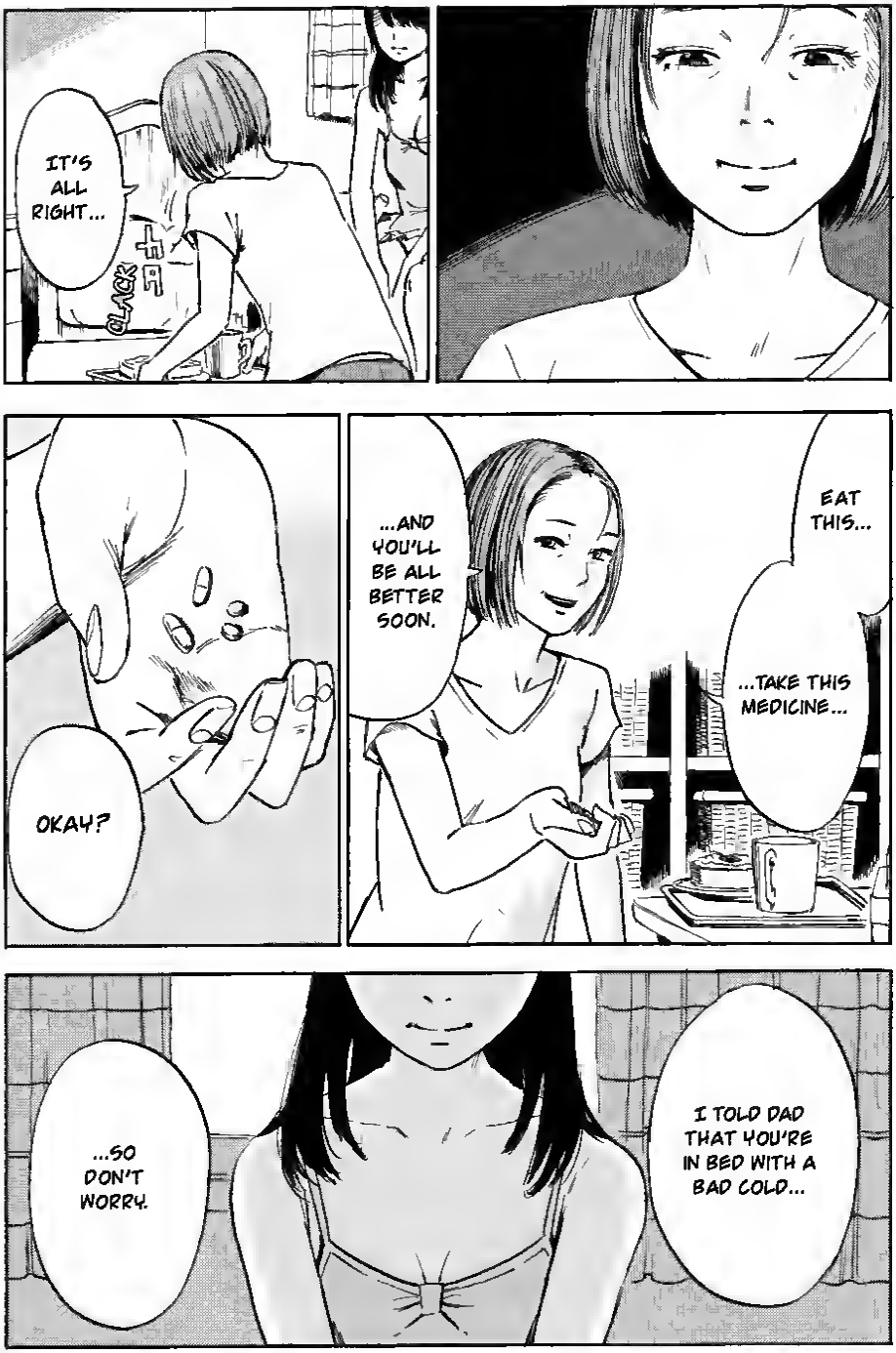
ゴク
GULP
ゴク
GULP
SIGH...

URP...
MARI?
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
コン
CLICK
ガチャ
CREAK
キィ
ARE YOU UP?
I'M COMING IN.

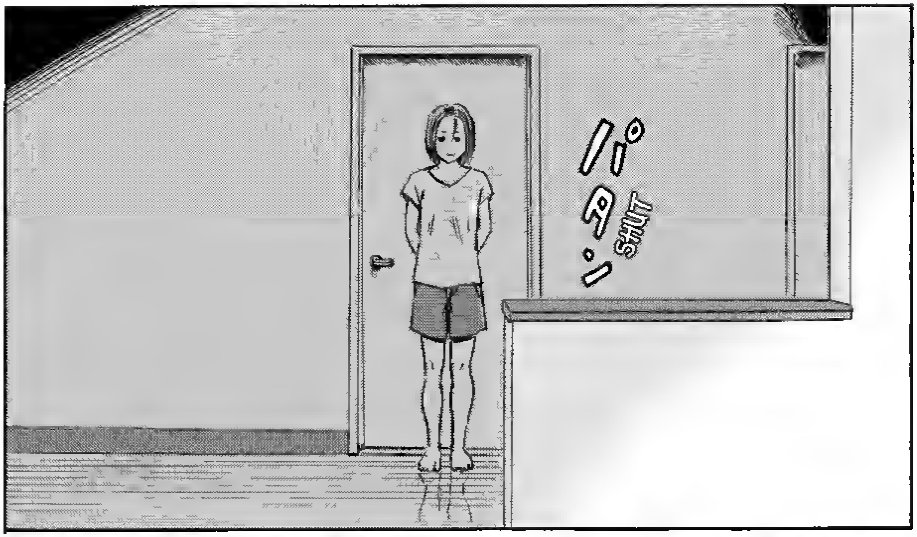

MARI, ARE YOU OKAY?
...

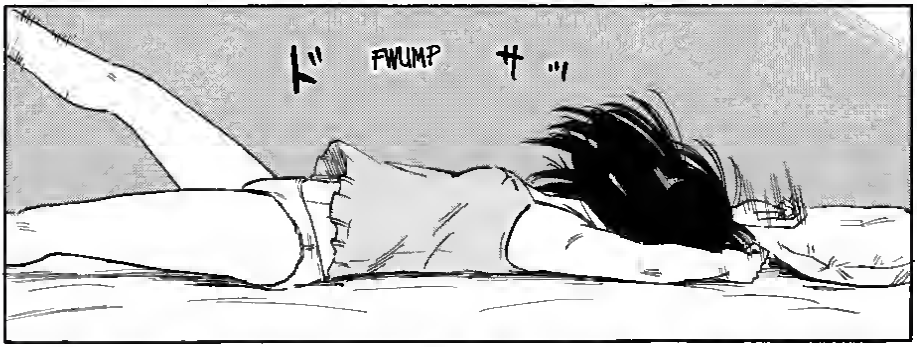
IT'S EVENING ALREADY. 5:00 PM.

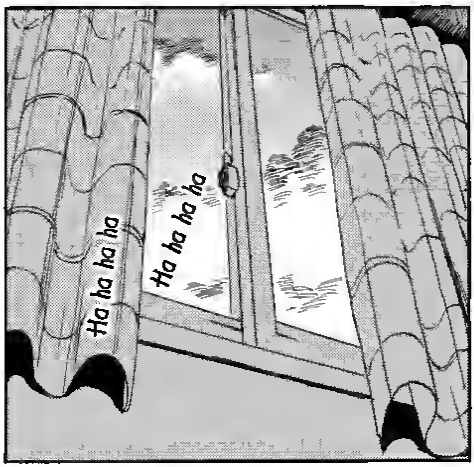
I'M ISAO KOMORI.
I'M NOT MARI...

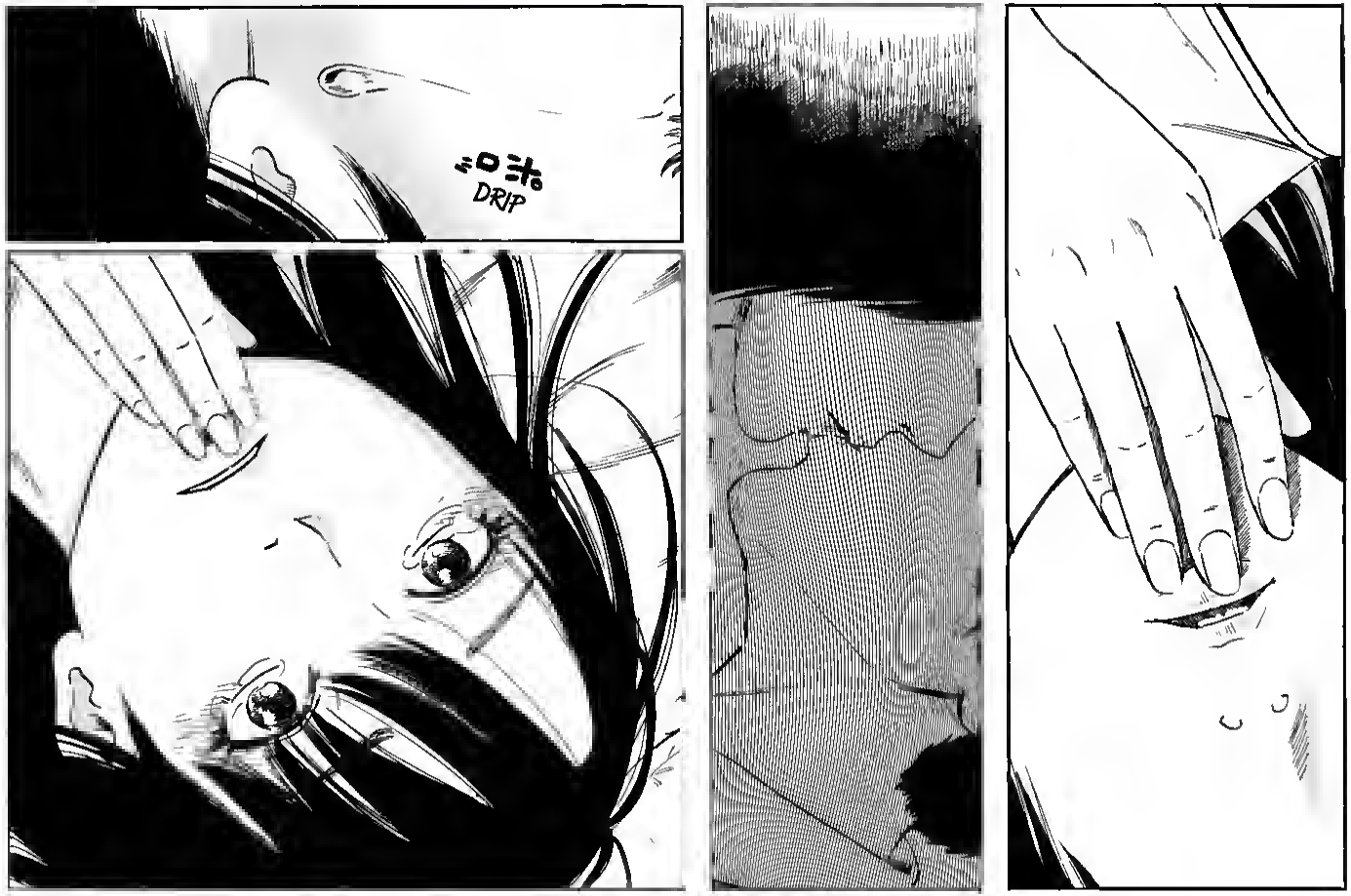

IT'S ALL RIGHT...
CLACK
...AND YOU'LL BE ALL BETTER SOON.
EAT THIS...
...TAKE THIS MEDICINE...
OKAY?
I TOLD DAD THAT YOU'RE IN BED WITH A BAD COLD...
...SO DON'T WORRY.

I'M NOT MARI-SAN.
THAT'S NOT SO.
MARI IS MARI.
I WANT YOU TO TRY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL NEXT WEEK.
IT'LL BE FINE!
OKAY?
JUST MAKE SURE YOU TAKE YOUR MEDICINE.


パタン
SHUT


ドサッ
FWUMP


Ha ha ha
Ha ha ha ha

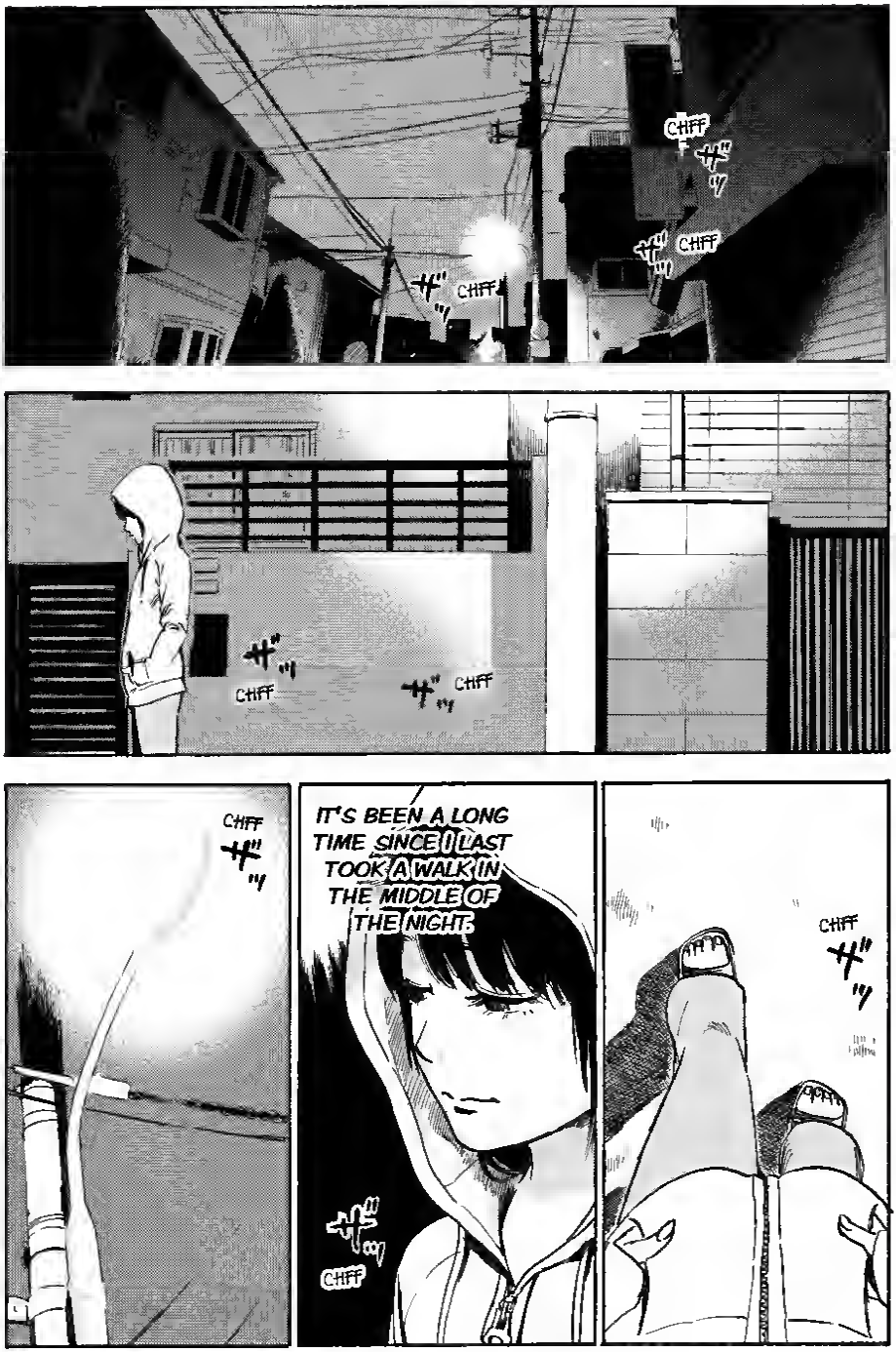

DRIP

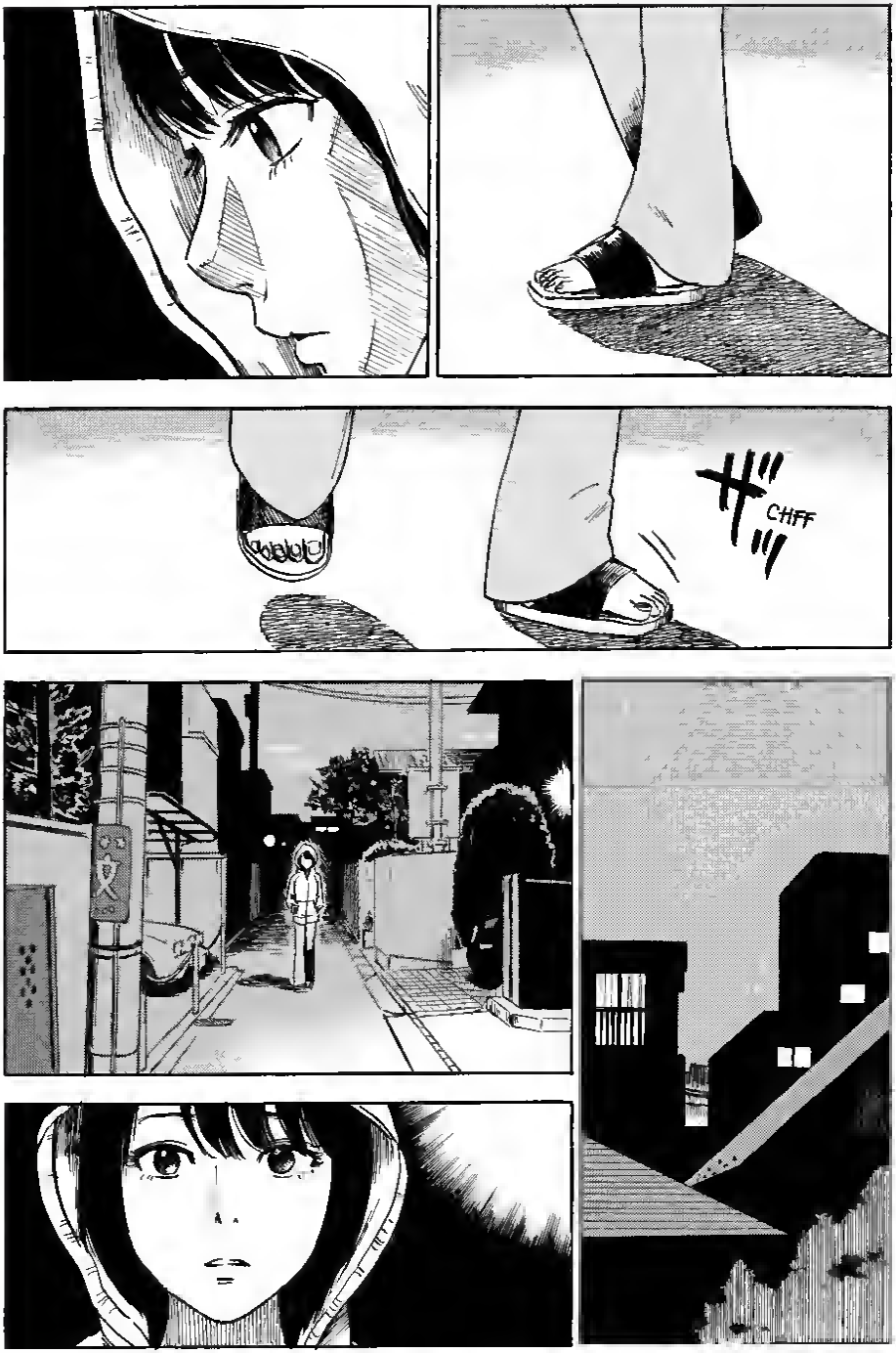
SOB
SOB
SOB

WHEE-OOO
WHEE-OOO
WHEE-OOO

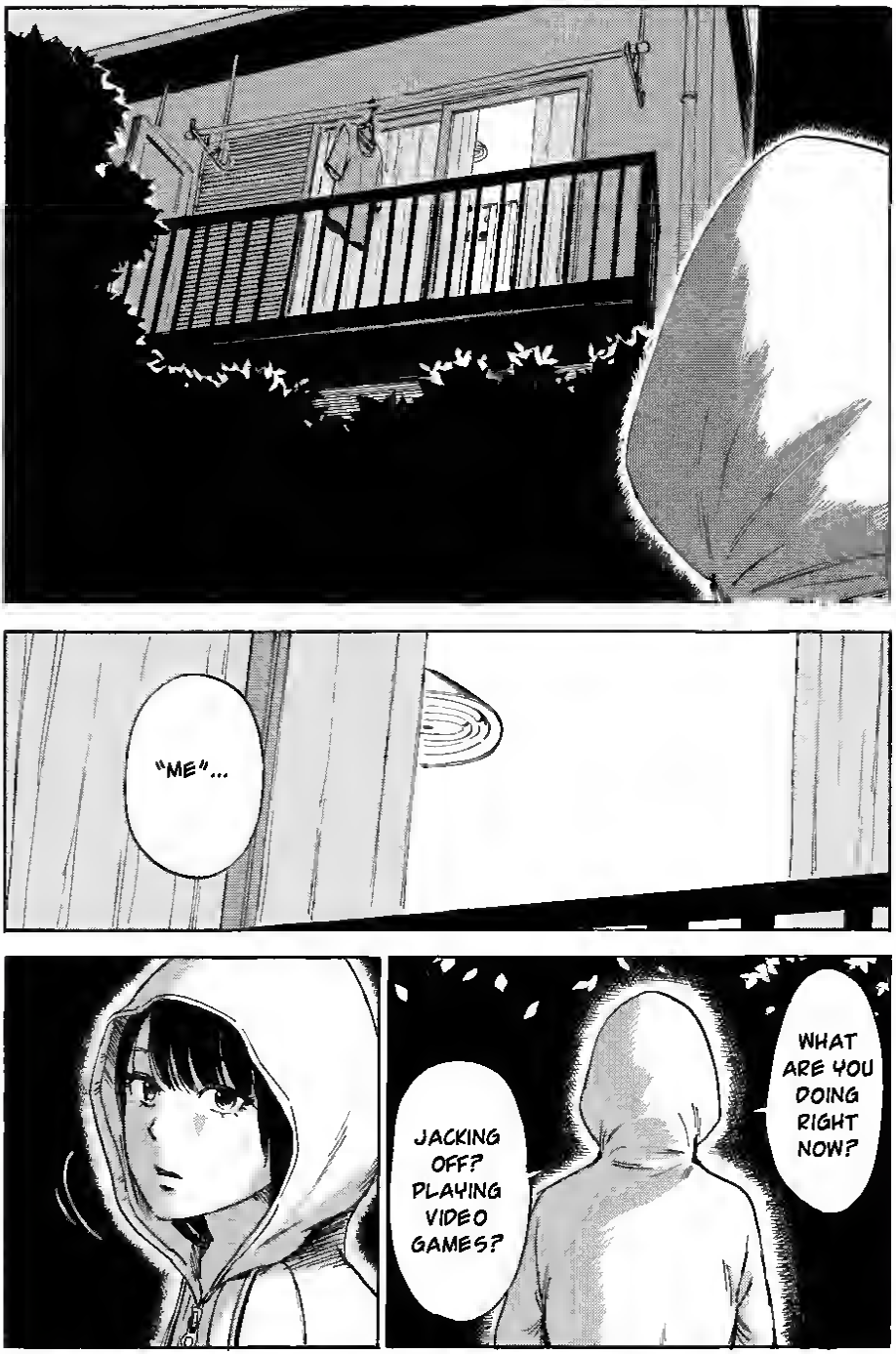
ーォーー。WHEE-OOO
WHEE-OOO ーォーー。
I CAN'T SLEEP.
WHAT DO I EXPECT? I SLEPT UNTIL EVENING.
ムク RUSH
ジャリ RUSTLE

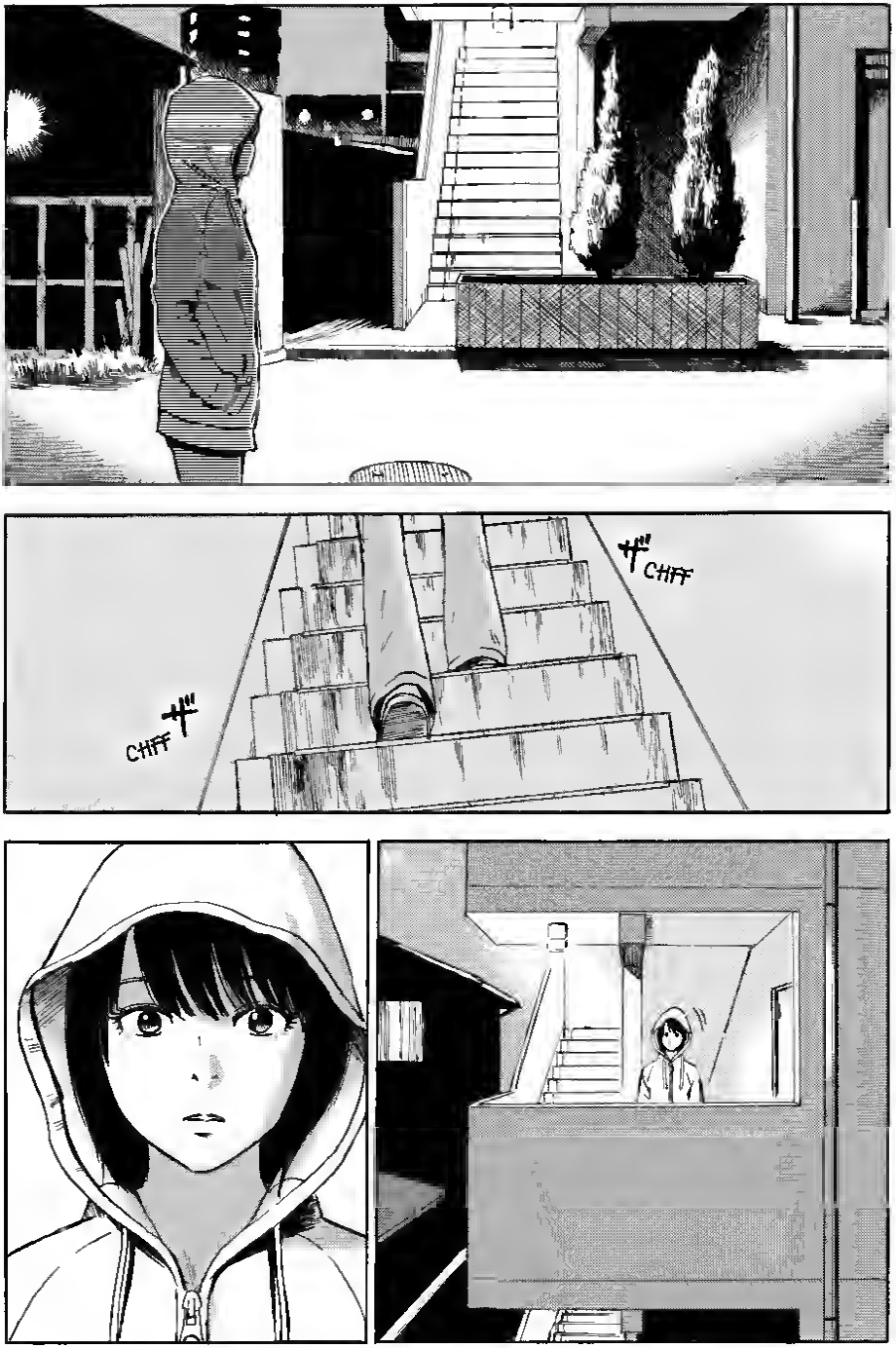
カチャ
CLICK
キィ…
CREAK

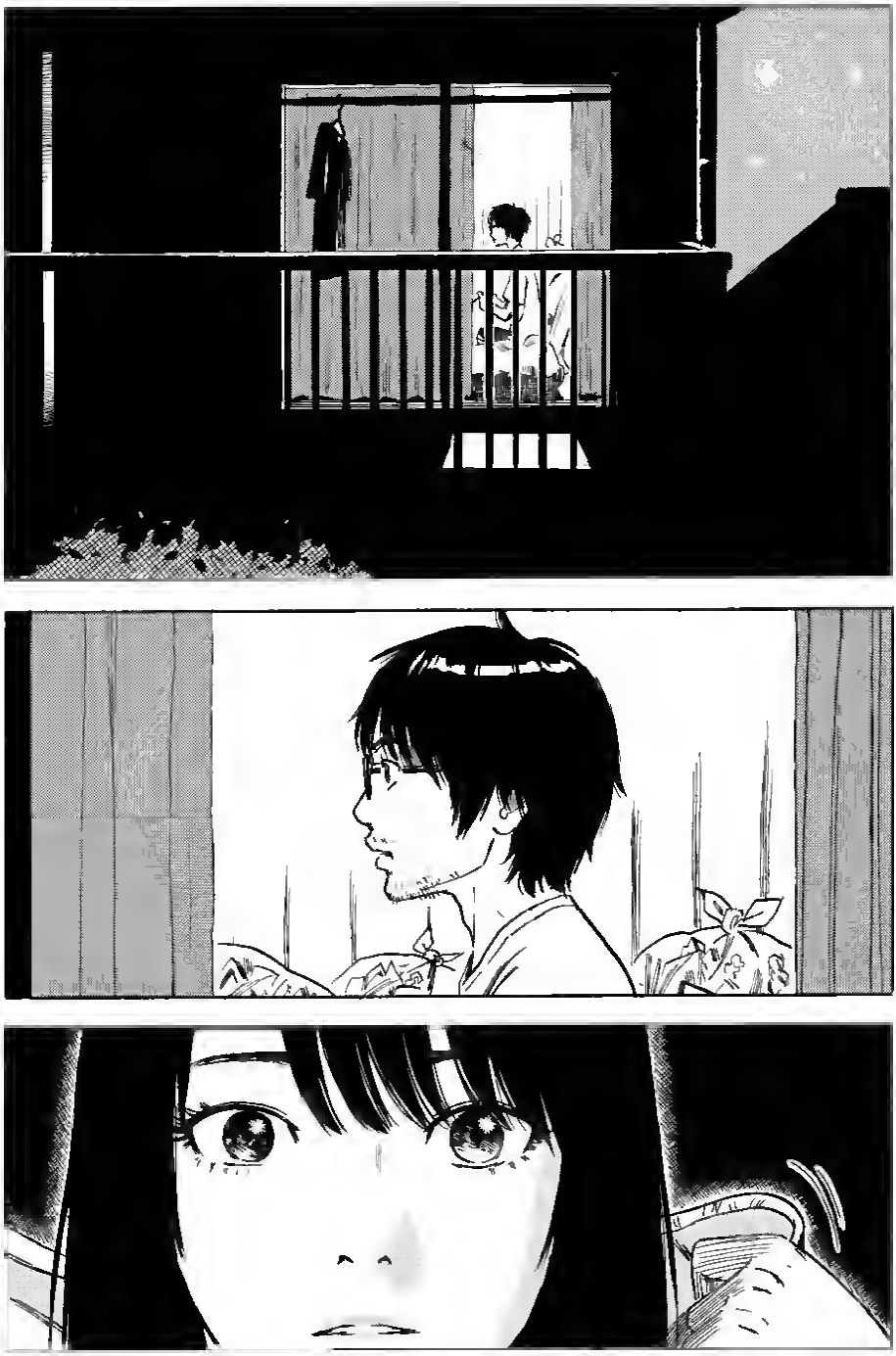

CHIFF
CHIFF
CHIFF
CHIFF
CHIFF
CHIFF
CHIFF
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST TOOK A WALK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
CHIFF
CHIFF


CHFF

...“ME”...
HEY...


"ME"...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
JACKING OFF? PLAYING VIDEO GAMES?


CHIFF
CHIFF



AHH...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE.
HEY.

WHAT ARE YOU...
...DOING HERE?

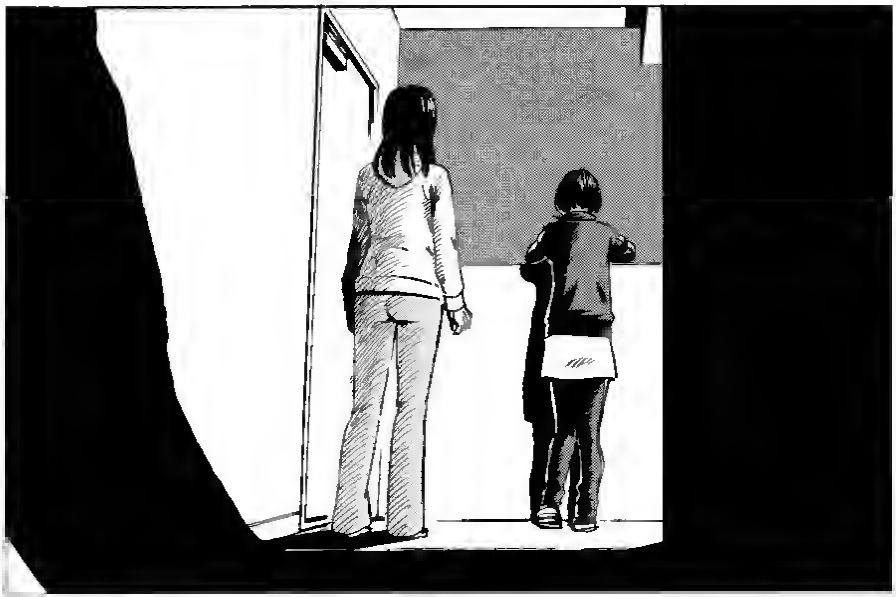
CHAPTER 25: MARI'S MESSAGE

WHAT ARE YOU...
...DOING HERE?

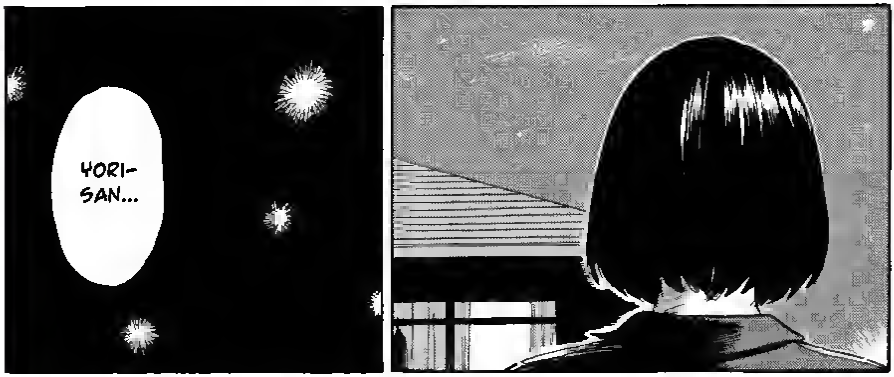
AH...

HURRY UP AND GO HOME
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU HERE.

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH



HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


YORI-
SAN...

I...
I WAS WRONG.
I TRIED TO HIDE EVERYTHING.
I TRIED TO CLING TO A FACADE.
TRYING TO FORCE EVERY-THING TO STAY THE SAME.
AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED...
TRYING TO GET MARI-SAN BACK TO NORMAL.

...I CAN'T DO THAT.
BUT...

THE WOUND GETS BIGGER.
...THE WORSE THE SITUATION GETS.
THE MORE I TRY TO HIDE THINGS...

I RUN AWAY FROM THINGS WHEN IT SUITS ME.
I'M A SNAKE...

I WANT TO CHANGE!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RUN AWAY ANY LONGER!

I'M SORRY.
YORI-SAN...

CHANGE?
SINCE THAT DAY...
...I'VE COME HERE EVERY DAY...
...TO WATCH HIM.
ISAO KOMORI. YOU...
HE'S SCUM.

HE SHAME-LESSLY WASTES HIS PARENTS' MONEY...
...JUST SLACKING OFF ALL DAY.
A HUMAN BEING LIKE THAT IS GOING TO CHANGE?
DON'T LIE TO ME.
I'M NOT...

WHY ARE YOU STANDING THERE?
JUST GO HOME.
CHIFF
I'M SORRY...

KOMORI...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I FOUND SOMETHING HERE.

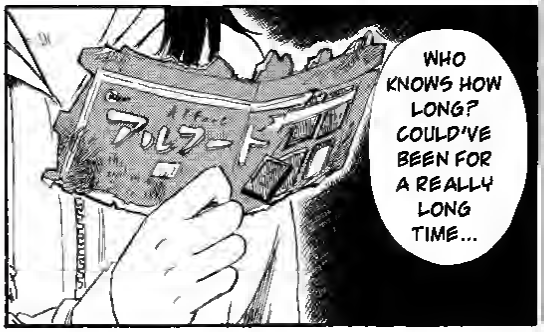
WANT TO SEE IT?
NOD
こくっ

Today's
Isao
Komori

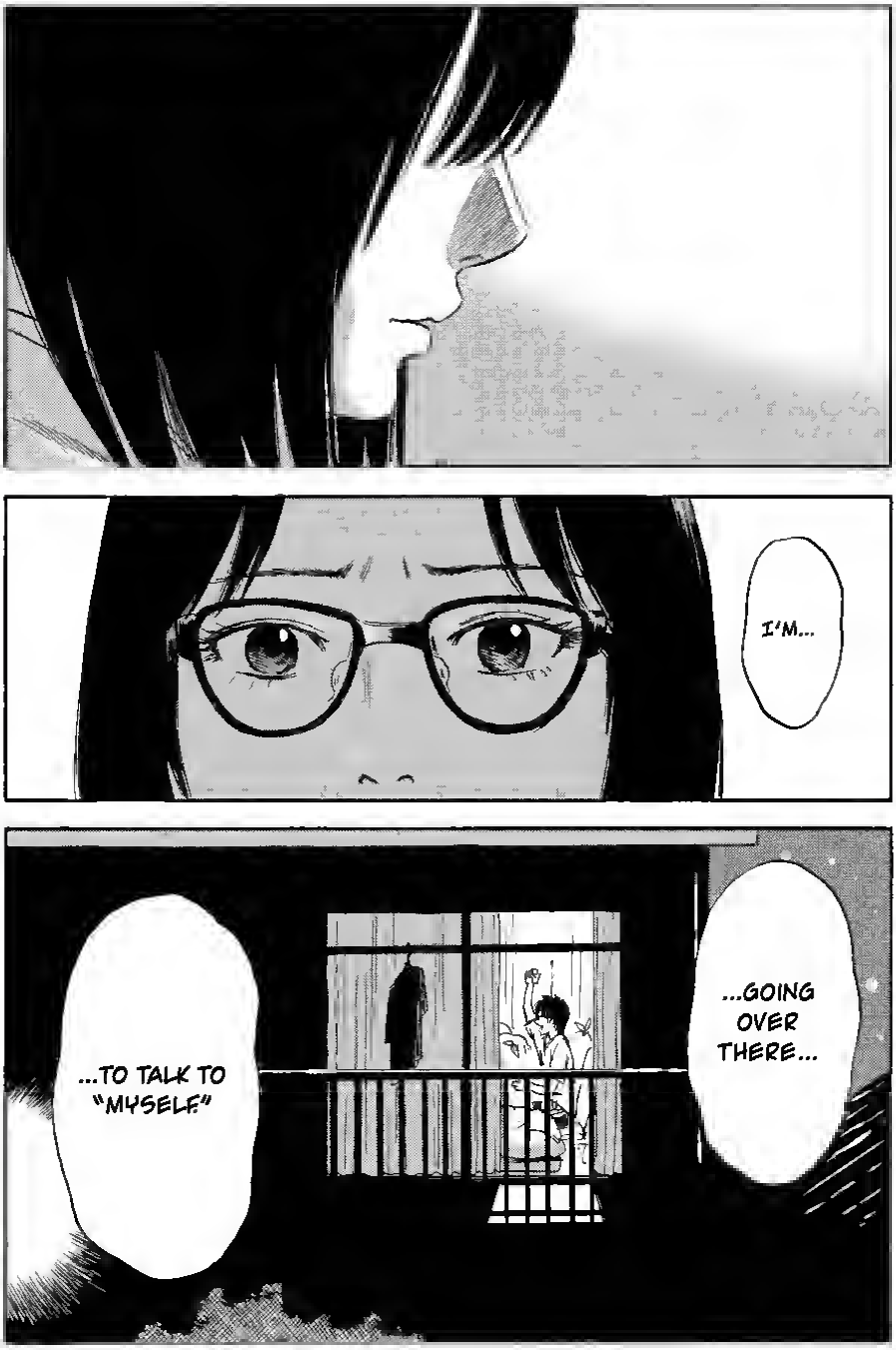
Playing video games again. Masturbates while looking at his computer. For dinner, curry with fried pork cutlet from the convenience store. You don't know how good you have it. I hope you never change.

Mari

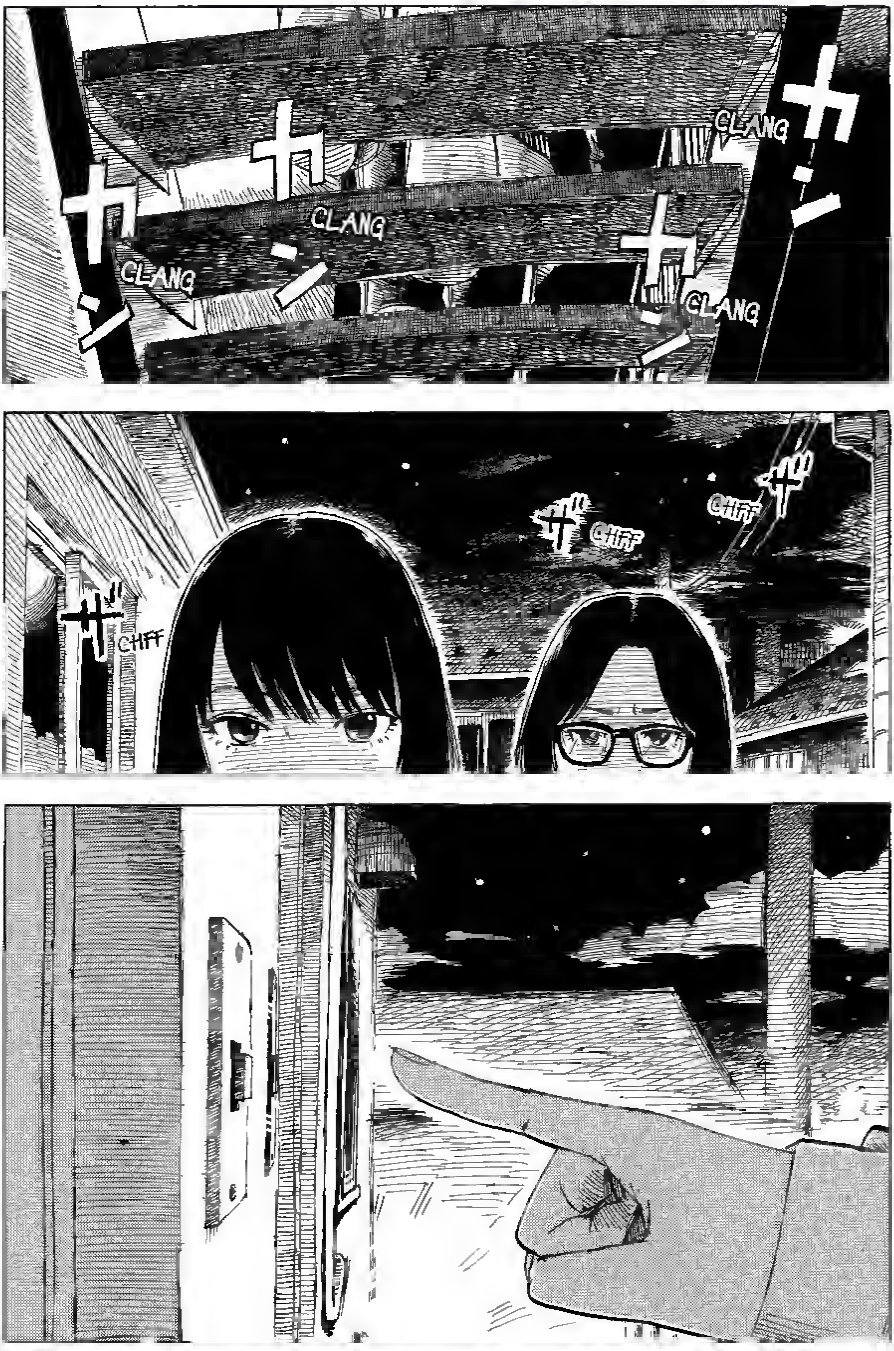
MARI-SAN WAS WATCHING YOU FROM HERE.


WHO KNOWS HOW LONG? COULD'VE BEEN FOR A REALLY LONG TIME...

IT WAS ON THE GROUND BY THAT PLANTER.

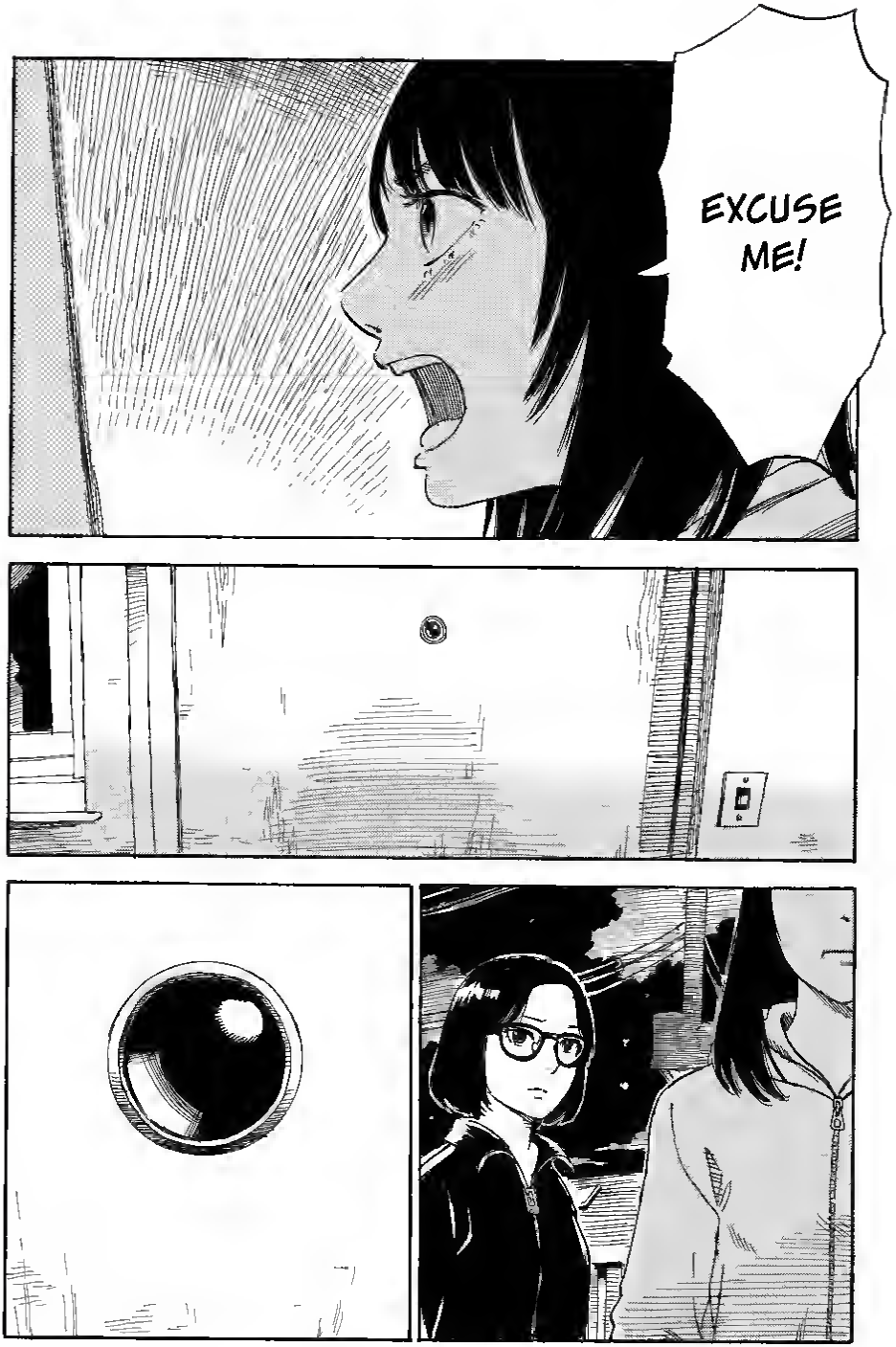

I'M...
...GOING OVER THERE...
...TO TALK TO "MYSELF."

I'M GOING TO...
...LOOK AT MYSELF!


CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CHIFF
CHIFF
CHIFF

DING
DONG

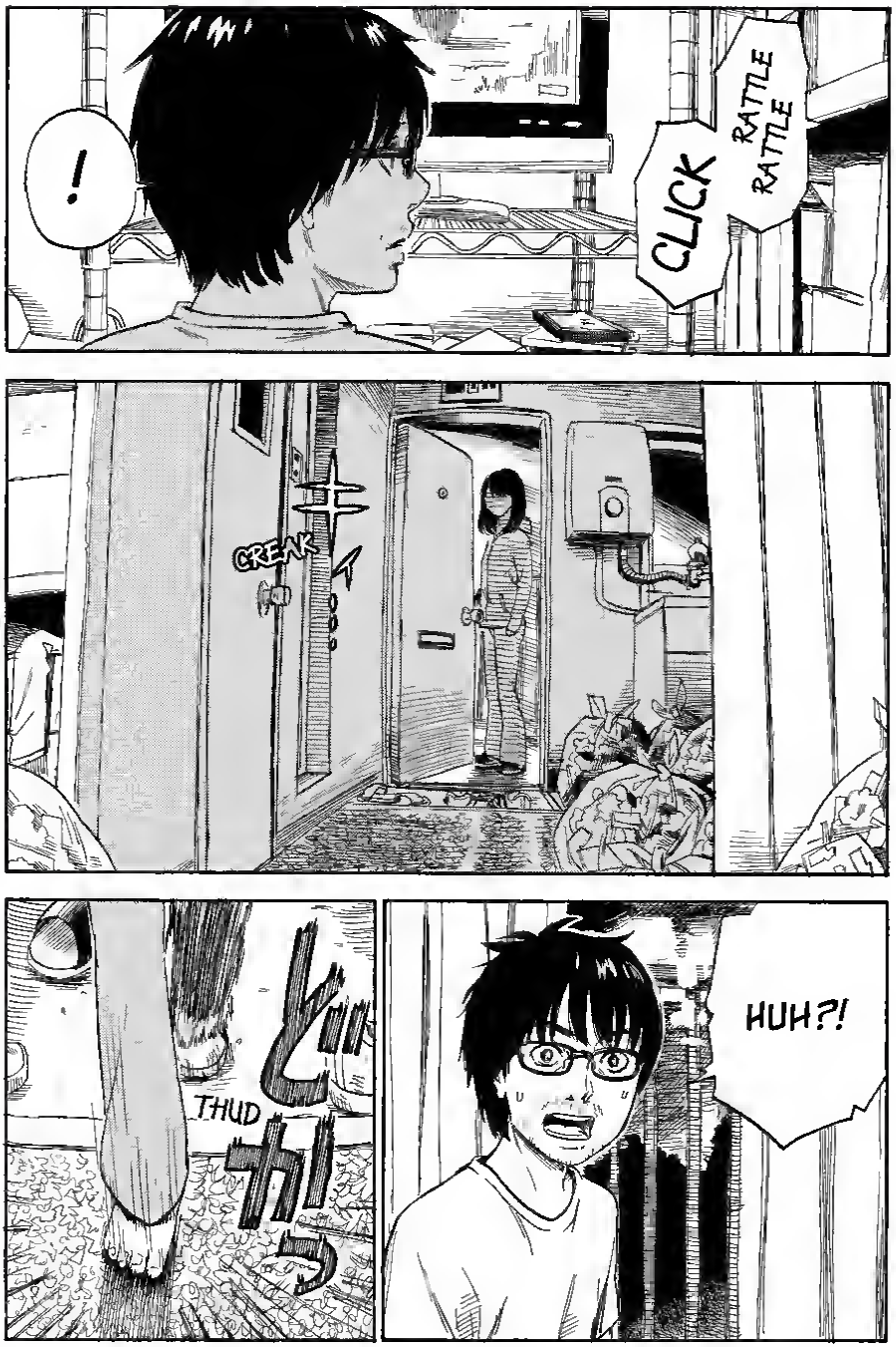
CHAPTER 26: I FACE MYSELF

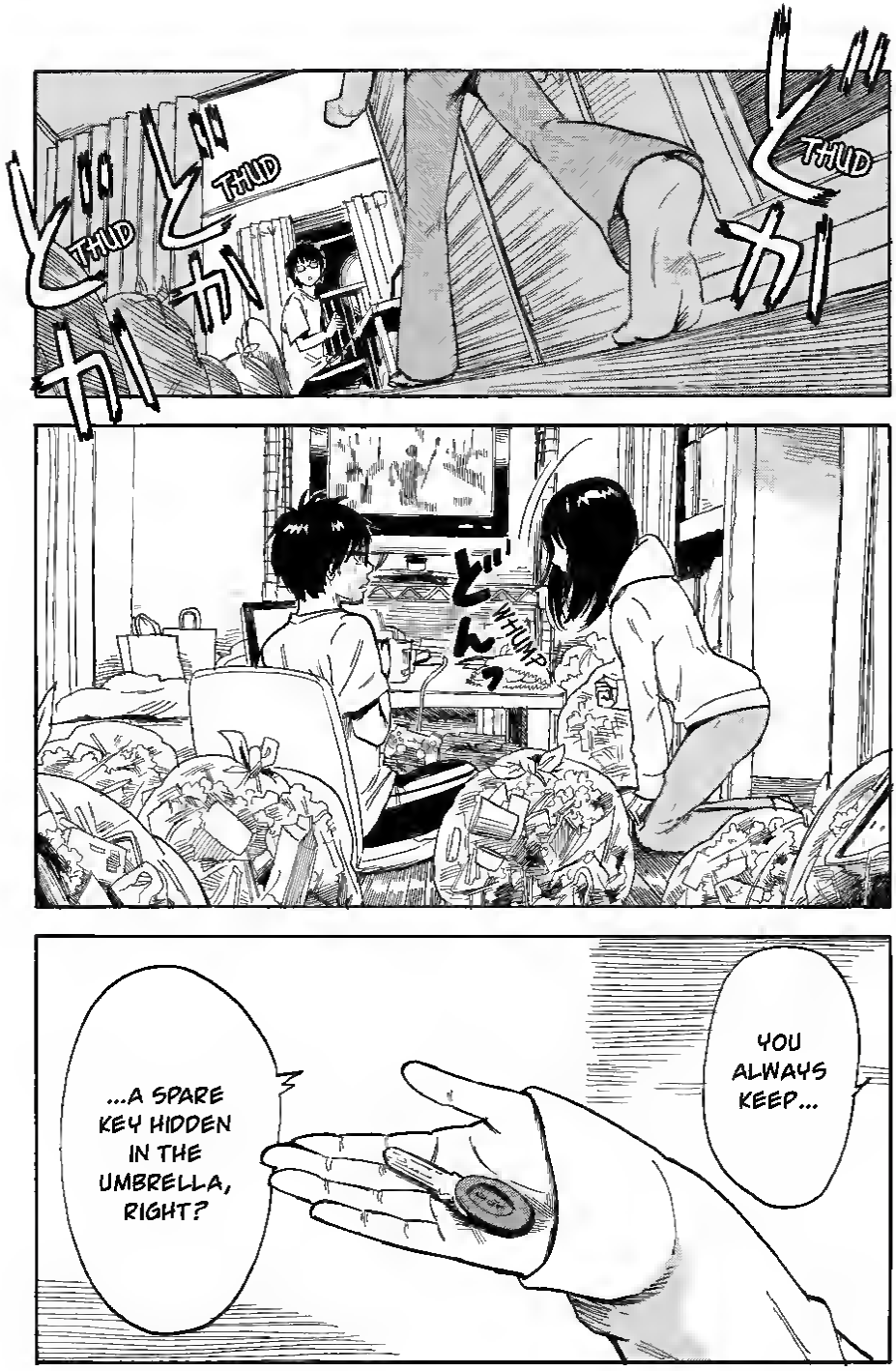

EXCUSE ME!

YES?
UM... I'M SORRY THAT IT'S SO LATE...
...BUT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
IT MAY SOUND STRANGE...
...BUT I'M SERIOUS!
IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT!

IS THIS SOME RELIGIOUS THING?
'CAUSE, UH... I'M NOT INTO THAT...
NO!
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!
SORRY...
BAM
ドン
AH!
UM...
HEY!
BAM
ドン
BAM

SO NOW WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
FJUMP
WHAT THE HELL DO THEY WANT? IT'S CREEPY.
JUST GO AWAY...
WHAT THE HELL?

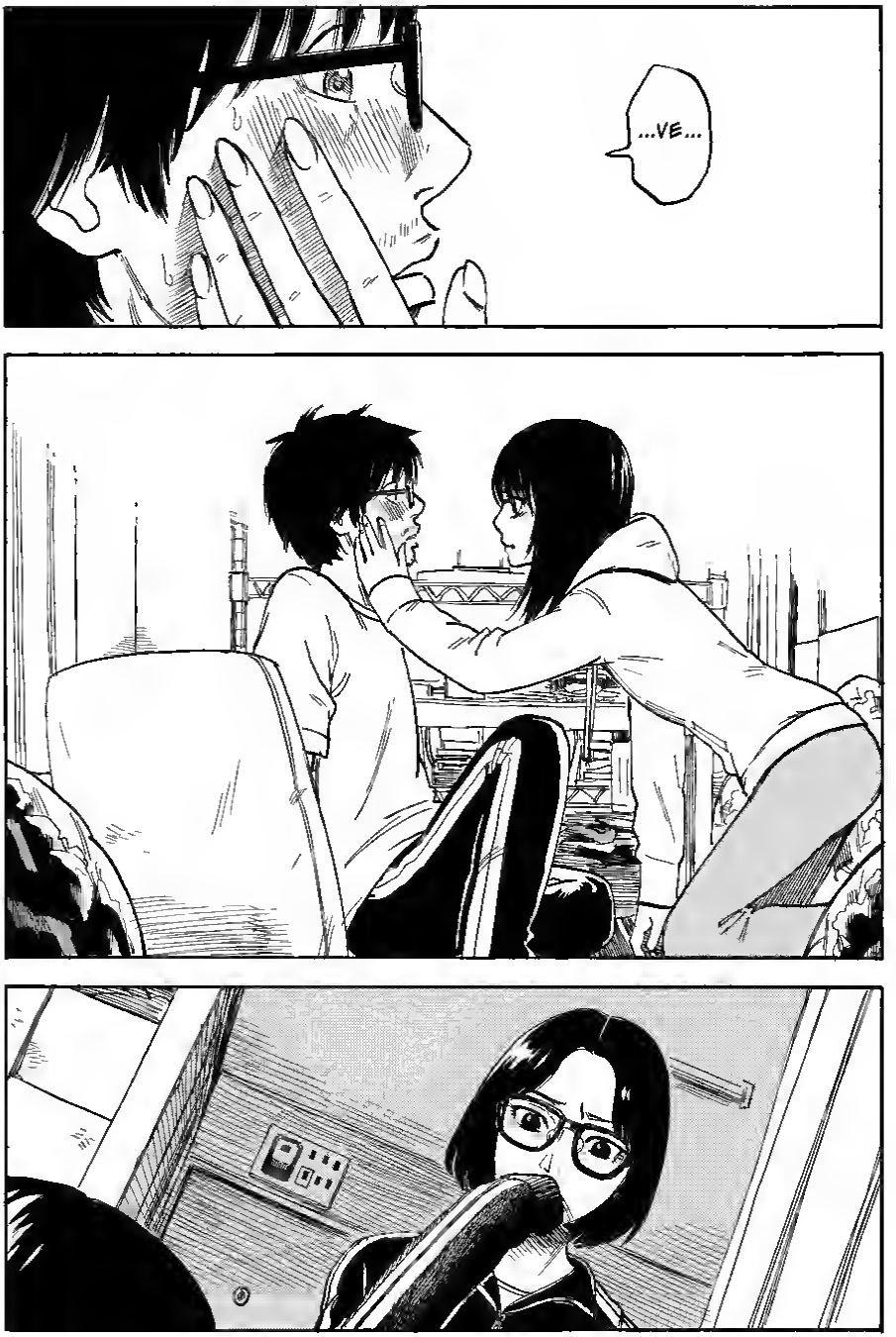

!
CLICK
RATTLE
RATTLE
CREAK
THUD
HUH?!


とか
THUD
とか
THUD
とか
THUD
どんっ
THUMP
...A SPARE KEY HIDDEN IN THE UMBRELLA, RIGHT?
YOU ALWAYS KEEP...

I KNOW THAT...
...BECAUSE I'M YOU.

BECAUSE I'M ISAO KOMORI.

ギシ…
CREAK
UH…
WHA?!
AH! NOW I REMEMBER!
YOU'RE THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO WAS SPOUTING NONSENSE TO ME AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE!
WH… WHAT DID YOU COME INTO MY HOME FOR?
WHAT FOR?! LEAVE…
PLEASE LEA…


...VE...

HUH?
AH...

I...
...REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO THIS GIRL IS?
HUH...?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
UH...
WHA?
LOOK.

Today's
Isao Komori
Playing video games again. Masturbates while looking at his computer. For dinner, curry with fried pork cutlet from the convenience store. You don't know how good you have it. I hope you never change.
Mari
HUH?
WHAT IS THIS?
I WOKE UP ONE MORNING...
...CHANGED INTO MARI-SAN.

..THAT IS TO SAY, YOU... WERE STILL HERE.
BUT THE ORIGINAL ME...
AND... ...THE ORIGINAL MARI-SAN WAS GONE.
MARI-SAN...
...WATCHED US! SHE NOTICED US!
MARI-SAN...
GRAB

...THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER LOOK AT US, RIGHT?
NO ONE...
YOU THOUGHT...
BUT...
BUT...
YOU DON'T GET WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DO YOU...?
OF COURSE NOT. I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND IT EITHER.
BUT...
...YOU'RE ME.

SQUEEZE
ぎゅ
HELP ME.
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.
IT...
...HAS TO BE INSIDE OF ME. THE ANSWER
SO MY GUT TELLS ME.

IF I CAN FIND WHAT THAT IS...
...I THINK I CAN MEET MARI-SAN!
ER...
OKAY?!

UM...
YOU'RE... SITTING SO CLOSE.

to be continued

麻理さんは
ぼくらを見てて
くれたんだぞ……
どうしてこんなことになったのか
きっと
ぼくの中に答えがある
それがわかれば

麻理さんに会えると思うんだ……！

――ぼくらと依は、麻理を見つけられるのか――

ぼくは麻理のなか　第④巻　2014年11月頃発売予定！

エロスふるさと探訪

～あとがきにかえて～

ふとんの上でおもちゃを一面に散らかして遊んでいた私に
母親がぶち切れたのです
ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ

おそらく中学生と思われる女の子2人組が
「大丈夫？」と声をかけてきました
「どうしたの？」
「どうして泣いてるの？」
「お母さんは？」
嬉しかった
こみあげてくる胸の熱さ
切なさ
けれどもそれは
「自分に注目してもらえた」嬉しさなんかじゃなかった
母親に対する怒りや
それを認めてもらえたような諦らしさ
向こうからお姉さんが近付いてきたことへのライバル感心
方やぼやされること
人のうぬぼれ、
満足感

私はお姉さんたちが
より心配してくれるように
一度ぐっとこみあげた涙を
またほとばしらせました
見透かされないが
びくびくしながら
ニヤつきそうなのを
押さえこみつつ
「罪悪感」というものを
そのとき意識しました
その後どう
なったか？
母親が迎えに来て
くれたのか自分で
帰ったのかハッキリ
憶えていません
あのときの感覚が
私の「エロ」の原点だ
と今になって思います
孤独ヤタ暮れ
母親の外側
受け身
否定
自意識や
罪悪感というものが
エロに結びついて
いきました
次回 さらに記憶を
ひもといてみたいと
思います
それでは